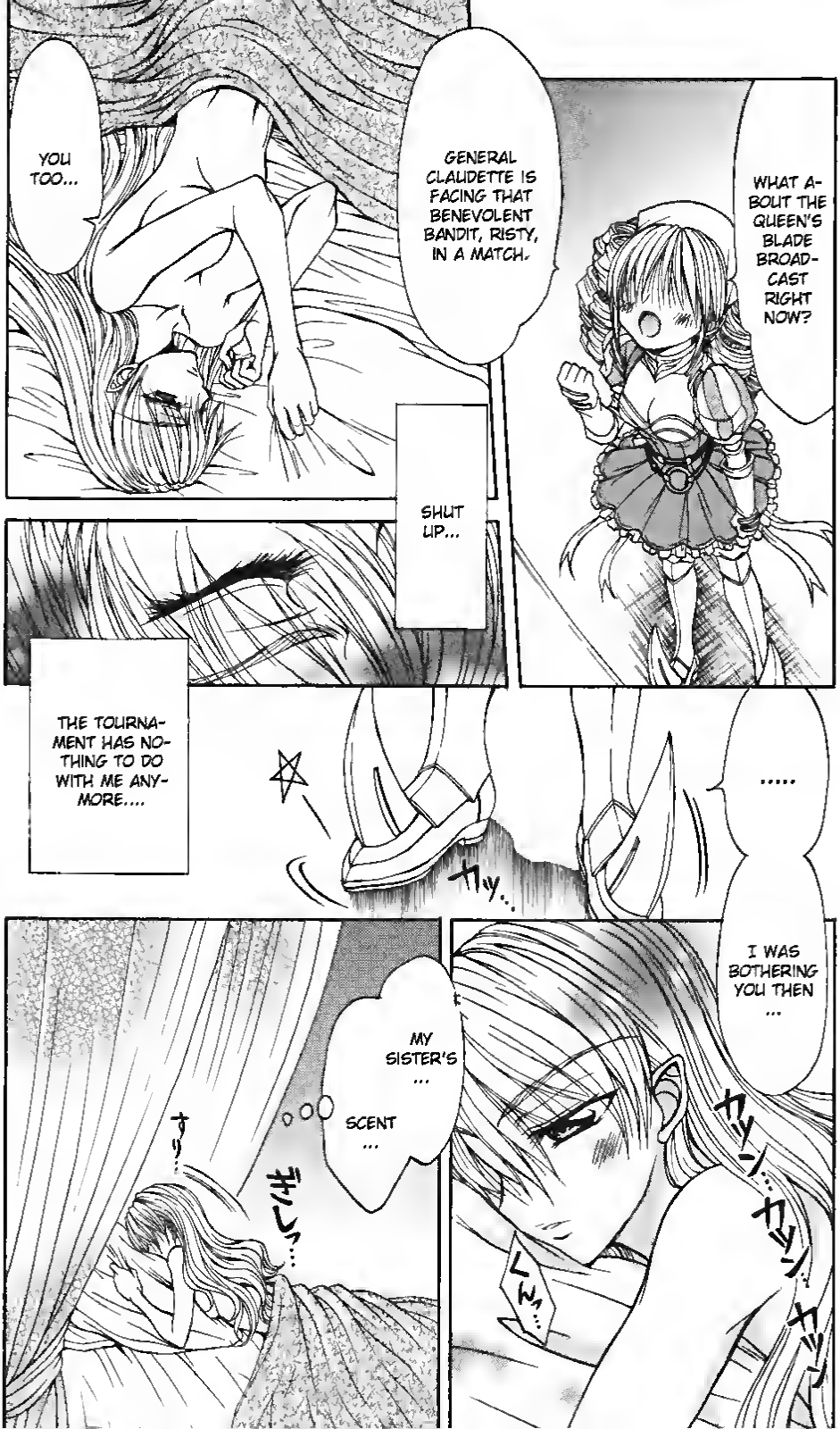
第25話
想いの代償
コンッ
コンッ
MS. ELINA?
コン…
ARE YOU IN THERE?
IF YOU ARE, THEN ANSWER ME...
コンコン…
コンッ
コンコン…
JEEZ ...
SHE DOESN'T GO HOME TO THE MANSION AND SHE KEEPS HERSELF IN THE GENERAL'S BEDROOM...
HAA...


YOU TOO...
GENERAL CLAUDETTE IS FACING THAT BENEVOLENT BANDIT, RISTY, IN A MATCH.
WHAT ABOUT THE QUEEN'S BLADE BROADCAST RIGHT NOW?
SHUT UP...
THE TOURNAMENT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME ANYMORE....
.....
I WAS BOTHERING YOU THEN ...
MY SISTER'S ...
SCENT ...

第25話 想いの代償

AH!
MS. YMIR!
OH!
MM...
LADY CLAUDETTE!
ガヤ...
ガヤ...
WELL? HOW IS LADY ELINA...
AH! NO GOOD! NO GOOD!
SHE'S GOT NO ENERGY FOR ANY-THING.
IS THAT SO...
WELL. WE SHOULD NOT FORCE IT. SAVE IT FOR AFTER THE MATCH.
ウオオ...
"YOU CAN'T COMPARE THE HEAVY WOUND TO HER HEART WITH THE AFTER-MATH WITH HER MATCH AGAINST NOWA OR THE TIME ECHIDNA DISLOCATED HER ARM.
SHE'LL AN-SWER TO NO ONE, BUT LADY CLAU-DETTE, AND SHE DOESN'T RESPOND TO ANYTHING ELSE...
ウオオ...

IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, AUTHORITY FOR THAT "MISSION" HAS PASSED ONTO THE GENERAL.
THE EARL HAS ALSO SAID HE'S RETURNING TO THE HEAD CASTLE...
SPEAKING OF MS. ELINA... SHE HASN'T RETURNED TO HER DUTIES AS COMMANDING OFFICER OF HER FAMILY'S IMPERIAL GUARDS...
チラ
THE WAY SHE IS NOW...
SHE SHUT HER CURTAINS TOO. SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DOING SO GOOD.
YES. UMM...
MAY I SAY SOMETHING?
I THINK.... VANCE CASTLE HAS TOO MANY MEMORIES OF LADY LEINA.
THAT'S WHY THE EARL ALSO WASN'T TOO HARSH WITH HIS WORDS...
HMM...
I SEE
JEEZ.
EVERYONE IS JUST SPOILING HER.

I GUESS ...
IT'S BECAUSE THE EARL HAS ALSO EXPERIENCED LOSING SOMEONE CLOSE TO HIM....
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MOTHER OF THOSE TWO SISTERS?
THE LADY MARIA? THAT'S SO ...
I AM...
WELL, THAT'S IT.
フンッ
SHE SINKS INTO HER DEPRESSION ... IF SHE FALLS TO THE VERY DEPTHS,
THE ONLY THING AFTERWARDS IS TO CRAWL BACK OUT.
RIGHT NOW...
WE CAN ONLY WAIT FOR HER TO COME BACK TO THE SURFACE.
ガヤガヤ
ワァッ
SUCH AN INTENSE STRIKE AT RISTY!
FROM HERE ON OUT ...
RISTY!
ワアアッ…オオ…!!

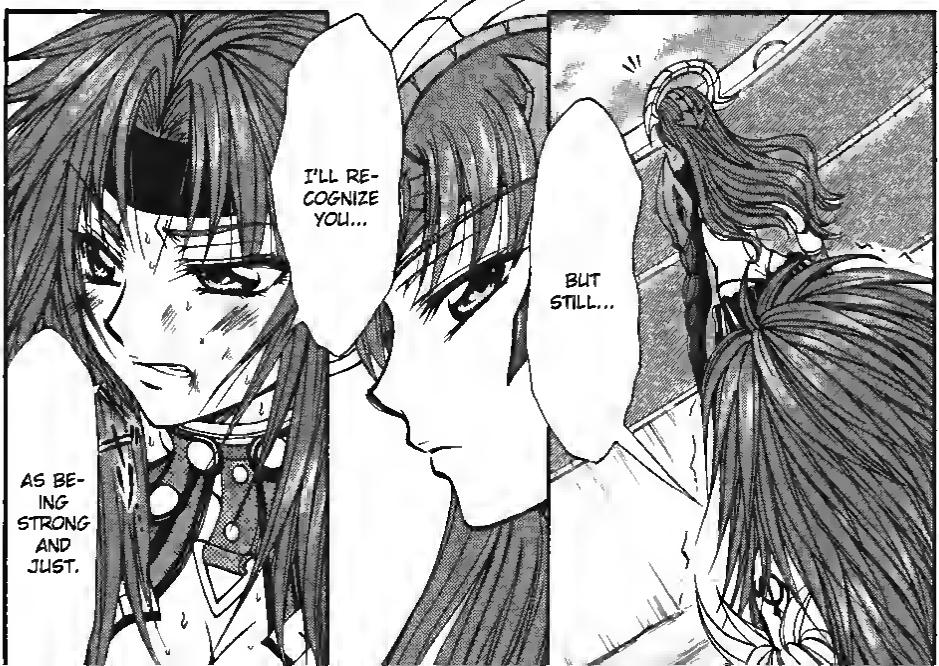
ガッ
D...
OHH! RISTY!
SHE'S DOWN ON ALL FOURS!
DAMM-IT!!
ガッ
KUH ...
ワァ
ガクッ
シュウウ
ガクンッ
OH...
DAMN...I DON'T FEEL LIKE I M LOSING...
BUT...I CAN'T FEEL MY BODY...
ボタッ
ガク

MY MUSCLES...MY JOINTS.... ARE SCREAMING IN PAIN...
THIS SUCKS....
WINNER ...
GUH ...
TO GET THIS FAR...
THE THUNDERCLOUD GENERAL, CLAUDETTE!!
DAMN YOU...
CLAUDETTE!

I GOT A SHOT RIGHT BACK AT YOU?
HEH HEH...
HUH..?
BUT...
NORMALLY, WE'RE ENEMIES. BUT, I'M GOING TO OVERLOOK IT.
STAND UP.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING...?
!?

YEAH...
THE LADY GENERAL HAS HER COMPASSIONATE SIDE.
.....!!
THE NEXT TIME YOU APPEAR IN FRONT OF ME...
THERE WILL BE NO MERCY.
!!
.....
DON'T SAY THAT TO ME FROM YOUR VAULTED PERCH.
DON'T FORGET THIS...
FOLKS LIKE ME...HATE YOU AND THE OTHER ANIMALS THAT ARE THE NOBLE CLASS

I DON'T WANT TO BE TOUCHED BY THAT HAND!!
.....
YOU WERE CORRECT THERE.
IT LOOKS LIKE I SAID TOO MUCH THERE.
CH!
カシャン…
カシャ…
じゃりん…

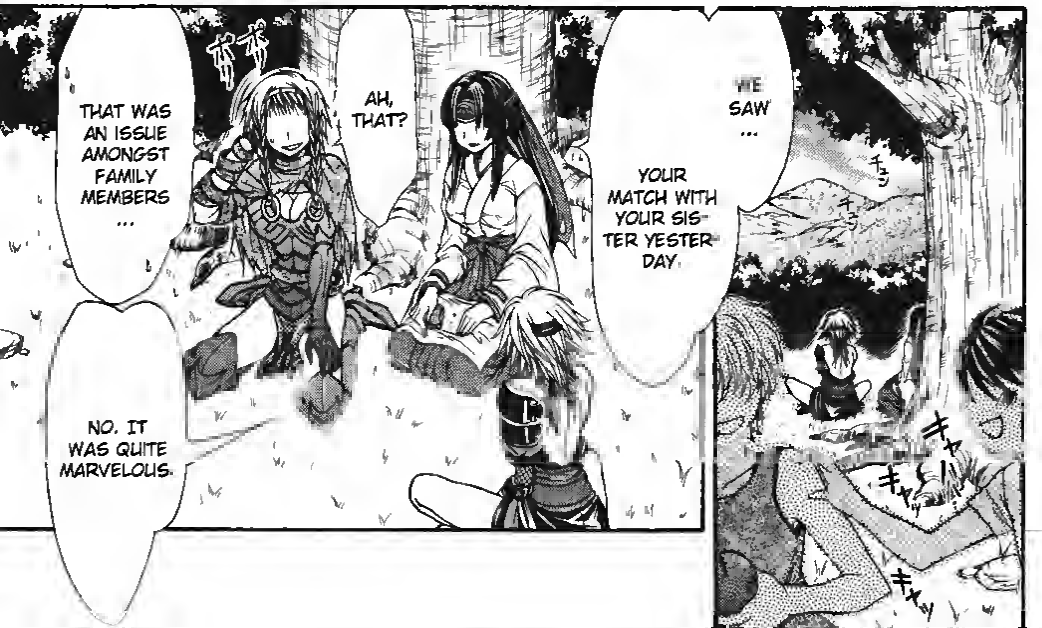

I'LL RECOGNIZE YOU...
AS BEING STRONG AND JUST.
BUT STILL...

WOULD DISPERSE AMONG THEM-SELVES...
BOTH CONTINENT AND NOBLES...
IF SOME-ONE LIKE YOU WERE TO BECOME QUEEN...
.....
ジャ
.....
IT'S NOTHING. FORGET IT.
NEVER-MIND.
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY FOR ME TO LEAVE MY DREAMS TO THE LIKES OF HER!!
I'LL SHOW YOU AT THE QUEEN'S BLADE TOURNA-MENT FOUR YEARS FROM NOW!!
DAMN IT ALL! FOUR YEARS FROM NOW!!
ゴゴゴ...

.....
YOU'RE QUITE POSITIVE...THAT'S QUITE THE STRENGTH OF WILL.
HMPH
...
LADY CLAUDETTE!
ヒィ
ワァァ...
WHAT A MARVELOUS MATCH!!
RISTY ...
AN APPLAUSE FOR BOTH OF THEM!
ウオオ...
パチパチ
ワァー
パチパチ...
.....
THAT LEINA ...
SHE HAS SUCH OF A BEAST OF AN OLDER SISTER.
AND THAT LITTLE SISTER. WHAT'S WITH THE VANCE HOUSE?
リスティー
ワァァ...
HEH HEH
BUT STILL...
SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T MISTAKES IS GOING TO BE THE ULTIMATE WALL FOR LEINA.

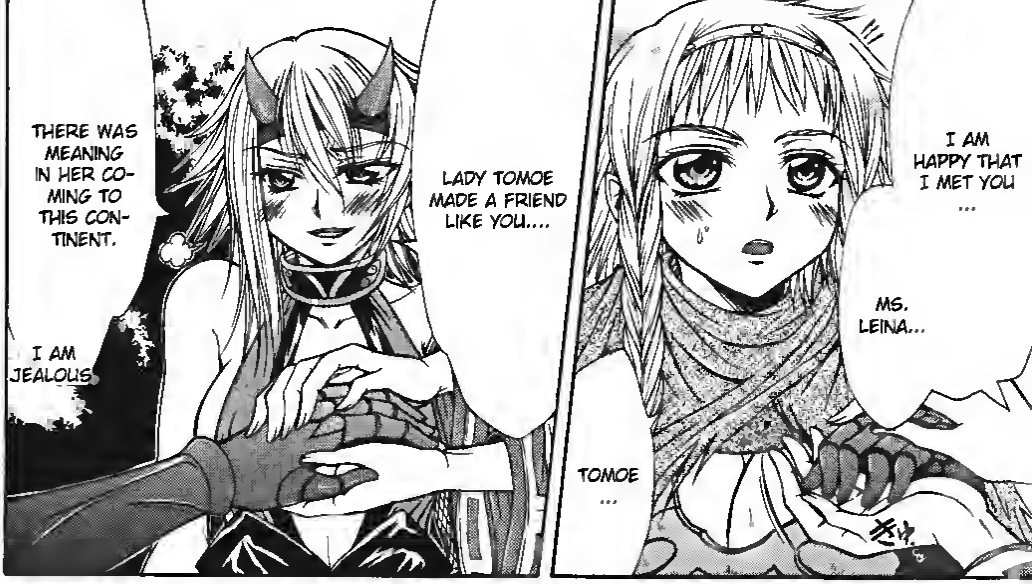
IS SHE GOING TO BE ALRIGHT...
NICE, CLAUDETTE!
ワ！
ワ！
……
CLAUDETTE ...
RISTY ....
ガヤ
ガヤ
ワアアア
I KNEW IT... I CAN'T AVOID FIGHTING MY SISTER...
ガヤガヤ
ワイワイ
I CAN'T DO THAT! I'M GOING TO BE ASSOCIATING MYSELF WITH HER FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
OH!
RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO FINE TUNE MY SKILLS!
IT'S LEINA!
SHE CAN CHUG IT DOWN!!
グイッ
ぐび
ガタン
HUH?
THIS LIGHT VOICE ...
OH! YOU'RE STILL THAT TRAINING DUMMY, LEINA.

AHH.... TOMOE!? SHIZUKA!!
YO!
YOU DOING WELL, MISS?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, MS. LEINA.

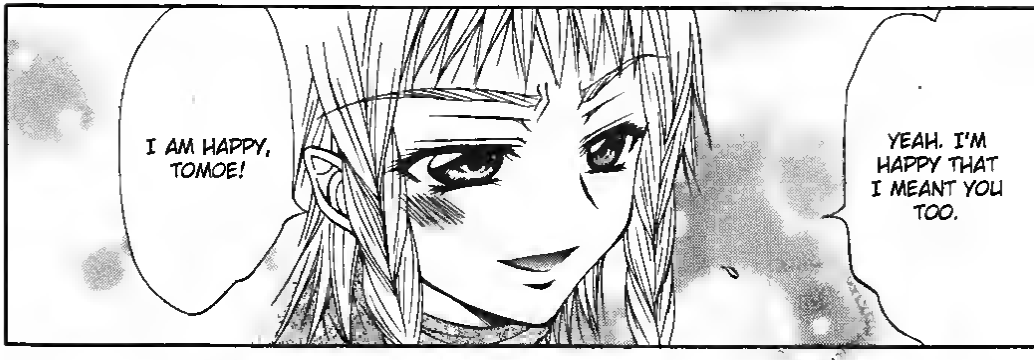

THAT WAS AN ISSUE AMONGST FAMILY MEMBERS ...
AH, THAT?
WE SAW ... YOUR MATCH WITH YOUR SISTER YESTERDAY.
NO. IT WAS QUITE MARVELOUS.
チラ
キャッ キャッ キャッ

.....
TOMOE... YOU FACED MY SISTER, CLAUDETTE, IN A DUEL ....
I THOUGHT IF I DON'T FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE AS WELL...
YOU FACE A PROBLEM HEAD ON AND A CONCLUSION IS DRAWN.
BUT...IT IS TRUE I LOST THAT MATCH.
IT WAS A GOOD EXPERIENCE CROSSING SWORDS WITH HER.
NAUGHTY CHILDREN WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN!!
YOUR BIG SISTER WAS LIKE A DEMON?
YES...AND IT'LL CONTINUING WITH HER SISTER GETTING BEATEN UP...
プル～プル
SORRY ABOUT THAT...
A DEMON ...
WELL, YOU DIDN'T SATISFY HINOMOTO'S ORDERS IN BECOMING A CHAMPION AND BECOMING A QUEEN.
THAT'S TRUE...

TOMOE ...
BUT STILL... I AM INEXPERIENCED AND UNABLE TO MOVE FORWARD.
I ALREADY INFROMED THE HEAD PRIEST...
I PLAN ON TAKING RESPONSIBILITY.
.....
RESPONSIBILITY...? YOU'RE GOING BACK TO HINOMOTO AREN'T YOU?
I AM
THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME I SEE YOU LIKE THIS...
FUFU ...
WHAT..?
カラン

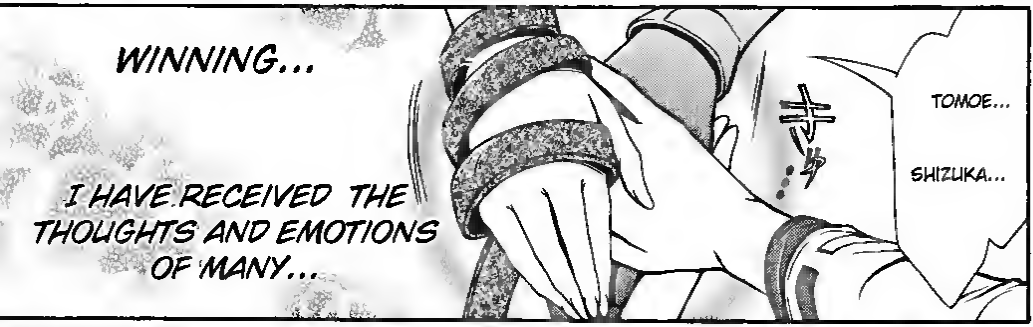

THERE WAS MEANING IN HER COMING TO THIS CONTINENT.
I AM JEALOUS
LADY TOMOE MADE A FRIEND LIKE YOU....
I AM HAPPY THAT I MET YOU ...
MS. LEINA...
TOMOE ...

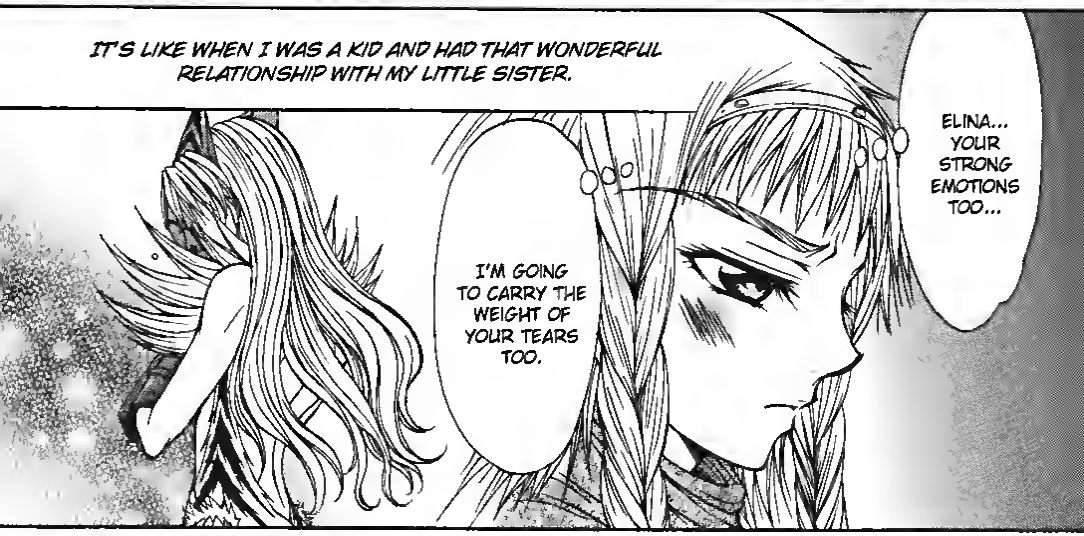
STAYING WITHIN THE MANSION, I WOULDN'T HAVE PASSED BY A WOMAN SUCH AS HER....



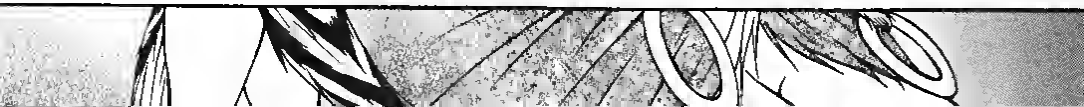
I ACQUIRED A FRIEND WHEN I CHOSE MY OWN PATH.

IF IT'S YOU OR YOUR OLDER SISTER,
THIS CONTINENT WILL BE FINE?
NOT ONLY THAT, HINOMOTO WILL ALSO BUILD A FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP ...
THAT'S JUST A SELFISH TALE THOUGH.




IT'S LIKE WHEN I WAS A KID AND HAD THAT WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH MY LITTLE SISTER.
ELINA... YOUR STRONG EMOTIONS TOO...
I'M GOING TO CARRY THE WEIGHT OF YOUR TEARS TOO.

I MAY BE DOING MY OWN THING...IN PAYING BACK FOR ALL THE TEARS I'VE CAUSED...



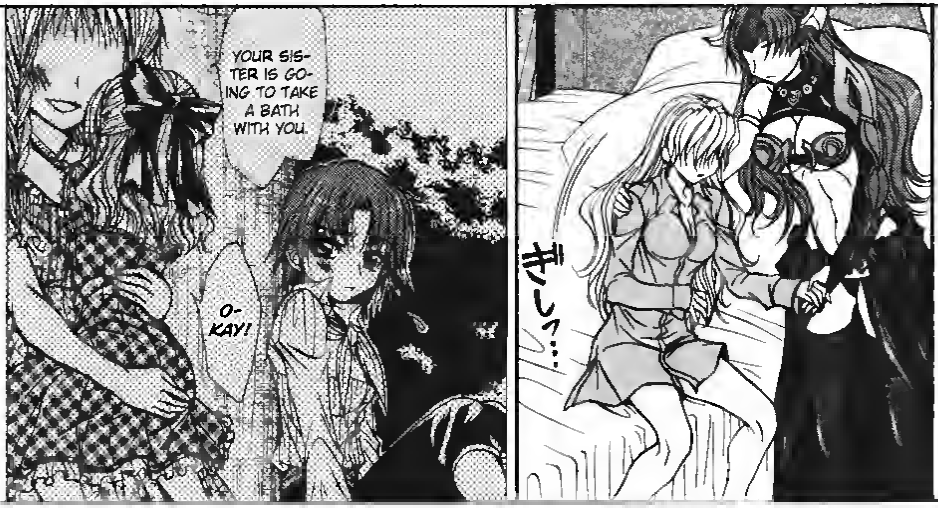
ELINA...
I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU, AS WELL, THE PATH I'VE CHOSEN ...
オオッ
ワッ!!
CONGRATS! MARVELOUS VICTORY!
GOOD WORK!
YOU'RE BACK, LADY CLAUDETTE!
DON'T MAKE SUCH A FUSS.
I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH AND HEAD TO THE HEAD CASTLE IMMEDIATELY.
RETURN TO YOUR OWN POST.
YES, MA'AM!
ビクッ
AHH ...
カツ
カツ
YOU GUYS!
YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS!
EXCUSE US!
OF COURSE!
バタバタ
HMM...THEY ARE THOROUGH WITH THEIR TRAINING.
WELL DONE!
わあ
カンカン
バタバタ

ELINA..?
UMM... SHE'S STILL...
MY ROOM?
YES...
HA ...
I'LL LEAVE ELINA'S CHANGE OF CLOTHES TO YOU.
UNDER-STOOD.
ELINA...
ガチャ…パタン
ピクッ…
SISTER ...
ARE YOU STILL MOPING?

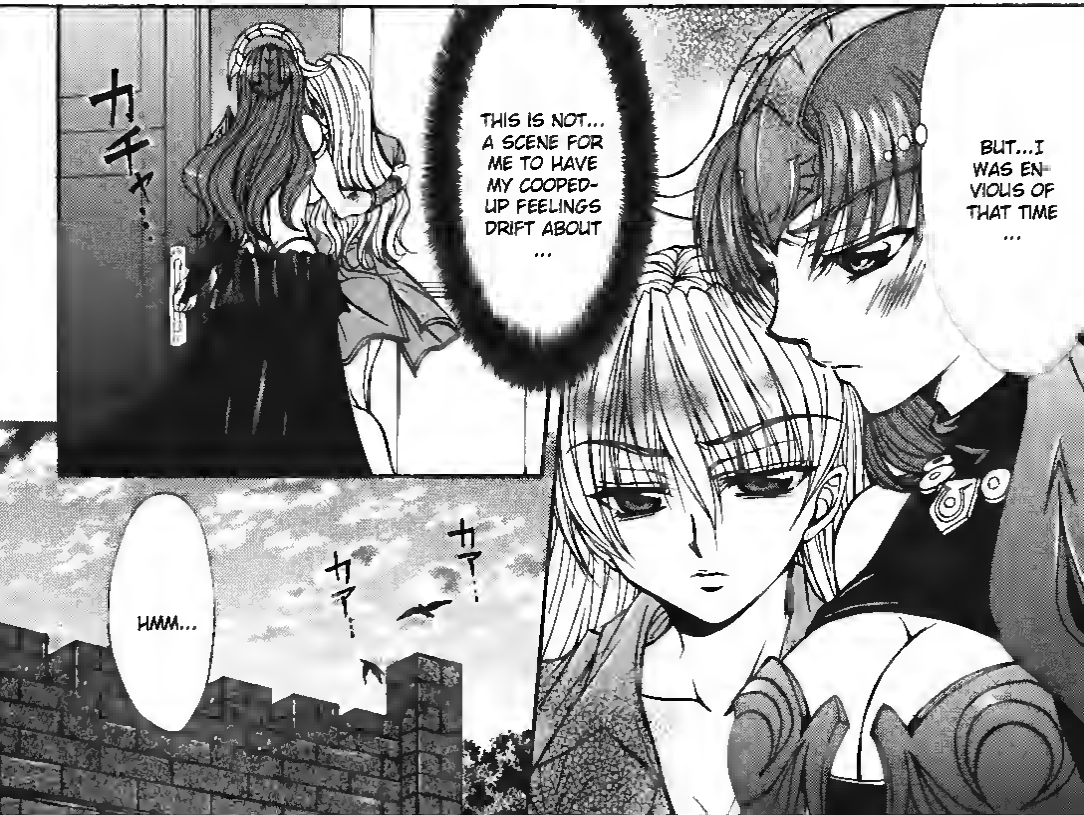
HOW LONG ARE YOU...
ELINA ...
IF YOU DON'T GO BACK TO YOUR DUTIES,
THIS IS "SUBSTITUTION."
!!
HEY...
ギュッ…
CLEAN YOURSELF RIGHT NOW...
NO..!
IT'S NOTHING ELSE BUT THAT...

NO! I DON'T WANT TO GO...
I'VE ALLOWED EVERYTHING UP TO THIS POINT...BUT, DON'T FORGET THIS...
YOU ARE THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE VANCE HOUSE'S IMPERIAL FORCES...
.....
.....
HAA...
HOW ABOUT WE TAKE A BATH TOGETHER?
I'LL WASH YOUR BACK...
MM...

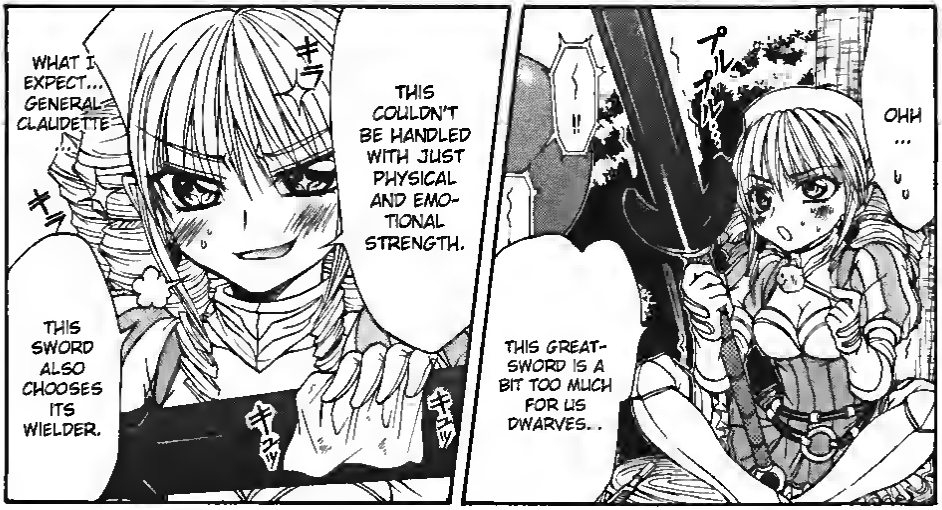
WHAT IS THIS? THIS MEMORY OF A SCENE THAT I SAW WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER...

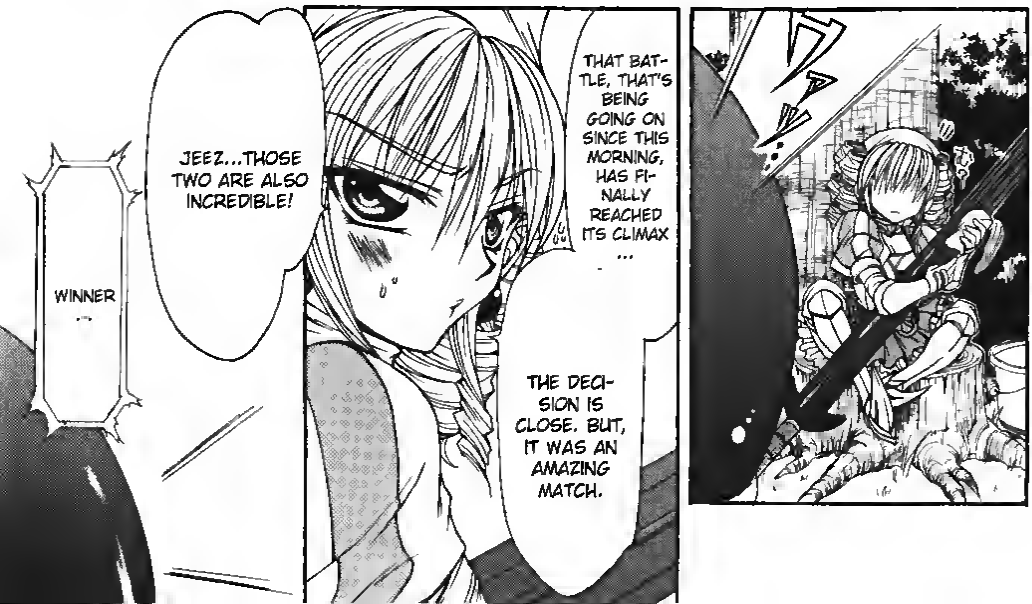


IT'S SIMPLE DEJA VU. YES, THAT IS LEINA AND ELINA....

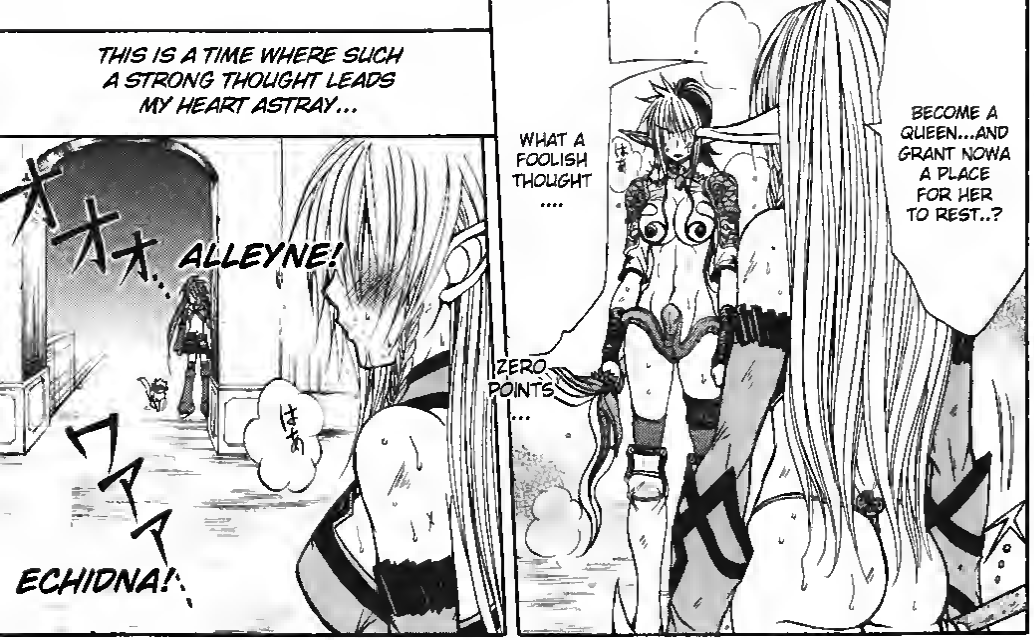


カシャン…
グラ…
REPAIRING ONE OF CATTLEYA'S WEAPONS IS QUITE COMPLEX....
I CAN'T LEAVE A WORN SWORD ALONE. THAT'S THE NATURE OF A WEAPONS' CRAFTSMAN.
BUT, I'M GOING TO REPAIR IT ...
THUNDERCLAP IS SUCH A FRIGHTENING THING. IT'S A MORTIFYING MASTERPIECE.


OHH ...
プル プル
!!
THIS GREATSWORD IS A BIT TOO MUCH FOR US DWARVES..
THIS COULDN'T BE HANDLED WITH JUST PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL STRENGTH.
キラ
キラ
キュッ
WHAT I EXPECT... GENERAL CLAUDETTE ...
THIS SWORD ALSO CHOOSES ITS WIELDER.


ハァ
THAT BATTLE, THAT'S BEING GOING ON SINCE THIS MORNING, HAS FINALLY REACHED ITS CLIMAX ...
JEEZ...THOSE TWO ARE ALSO INCREDIBLE!
THE DECISION IS CLOSE. BUT, IT WAS AN AMAZING MATCH.
WINNER ...

ワアアア


THIS IS A TIME WHERE SUCH A STRONG THOUGHT LEADS MY HEART ASTRAY...
オオオ...ALLEYNE!
ワァァ
ECHIDNA!...
はあ
WHAT A FOOLISH THOUGHT....
BECOME A QUEEN...AND GRANT NOWA A PLACE FOR HER TO REST..?
ZERO POINTS...

I'VE LIVED FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. BUT, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WHERE I KNOW OF SUCH A VORTEX OF EMOTIONS...

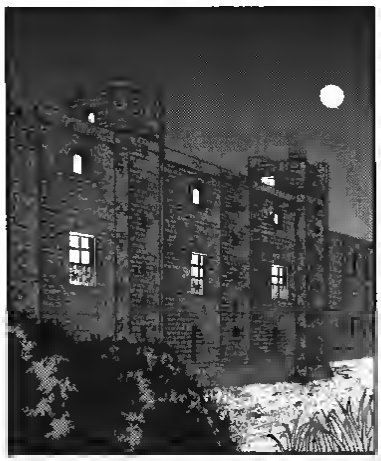
IT'S A NICE STORY
....!
I'LL TAKE NO-WA BACK TO THE FOREST ...
COM-MANDER ...
FOR ME TO WATCH OVER HER, UNTIL SHE BECOMES STRONGER THAN ME.... IF I CAN DO THAT...

NOWA ...
AMAZING ... COMMANDER AND MS. ECHIDNA ...
.....
AND THEN, I'LL GRANT HER THAT SMILE...
ONCE AGAIN, I'LL LIVE IN THE FOREST WITH NOWA. .
THE FIGHT I HAD WAS QUITE FUN ...
ワアア...
NOW THEN... THIS IS THE RIGHT MOMENT FOR ME AS WELL.
I CAN'T JUST HAVE THE COMMANDER PROTECT ME.
ALSO WANTS TO BECOME EVEN STRONGER AND SEE THE WORLD ...!
I SHOULD DEVOTE MYSELF WITH MY "JOB"?
ハア...
HAA...
BUT, IT'S ABOUT TIME I DID THE USUAL THING AND DROP OUT OF THE COMPETITION.
I WANT TO BE LIKE EVERYONE AND CHOOSE MY OWN PATH!

第26話 決意の背中

HAA!!
キンッ
ギャリン!!
ヒュン
メキイイン
ゴゴゴ…
ミシミシ…
ガラガラ
ズズン
はあ
はあ
パラパラ
はーっ
はーっ
ぜい…
ぜい…

CLAUDETTE...
MY SIS-TER...
ELINA...
ギャアッ!!
ぐっ...

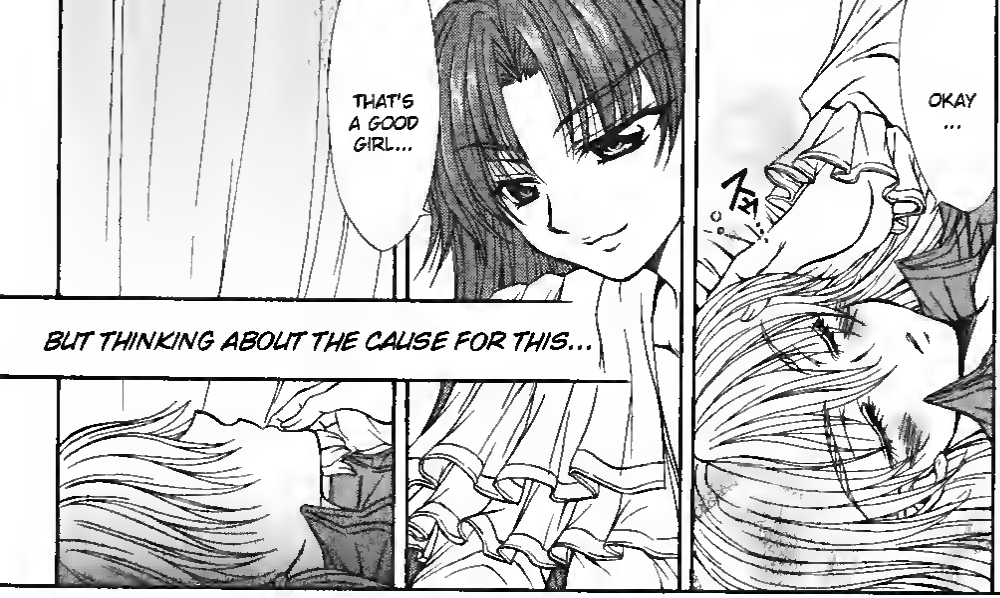


ぬと...

I'M GOING TO CUT MY OWN FATE AS WELL...
WITH THIS SWORD

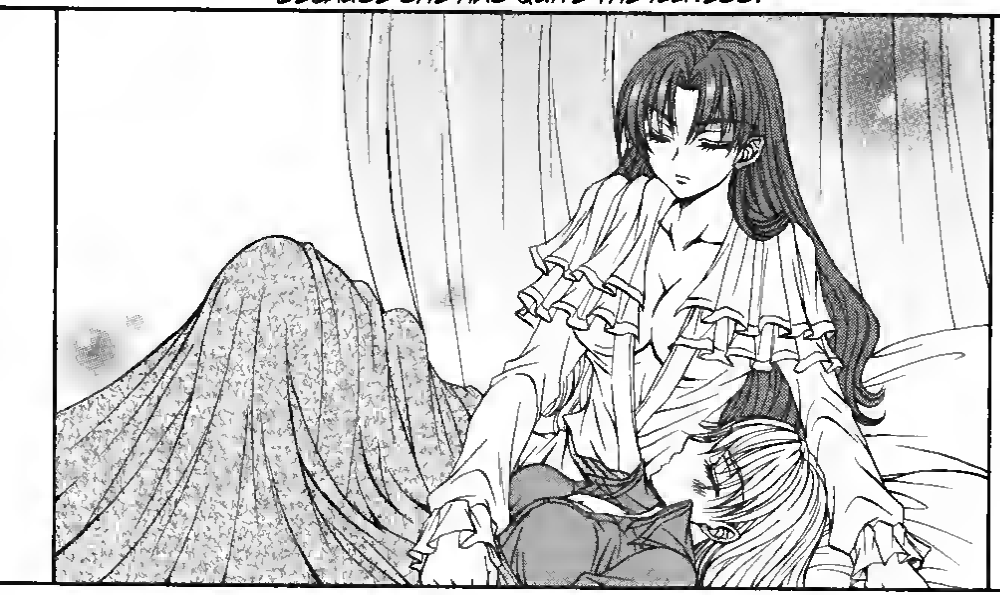
バサッ…
ギシ…
すう…
グイッ…
IF THE LIGHT IS DIMMING OUT…!
IT'S A-BOUT TIME I ALSO RESTED UP …
ギシ…

DON'T GO...
ELINA?
ギシッ…
YOU CAN REST EASY TONIGHT...
IT'S OKAY ...
I'M RIGHT HERE...
ELINA...
フッ…
ギシ…
MY CUTE SISTER, YOU'VE BEEN SPOILED.

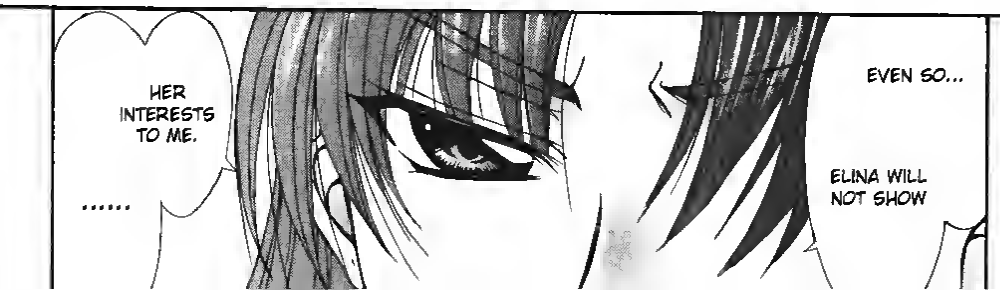


BUT THINKING ABOUT THE CAUSE FOR THIS...

THE RELATIONSHIP RIGHT NOW...NO...I THINK IT'S BECAUSE SHE HAS QUITE THE ILLNESS.



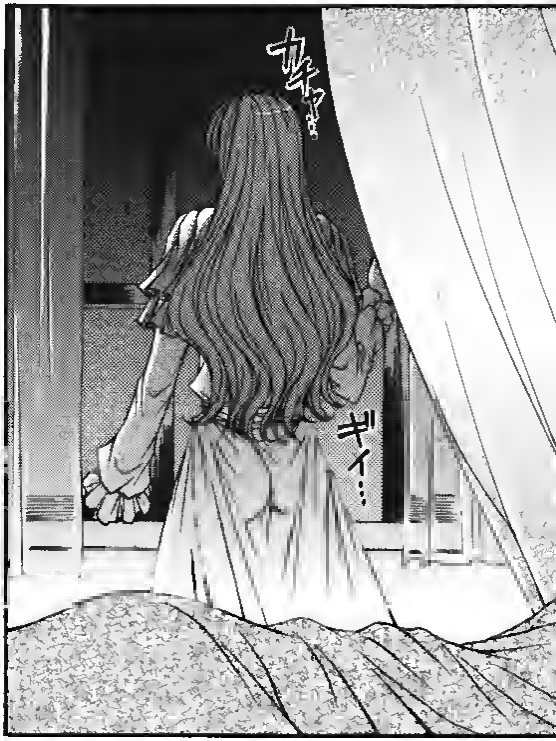
WHAT SOMEONE TRULY WANTS....HAS TAKEN THIS SHAPE?

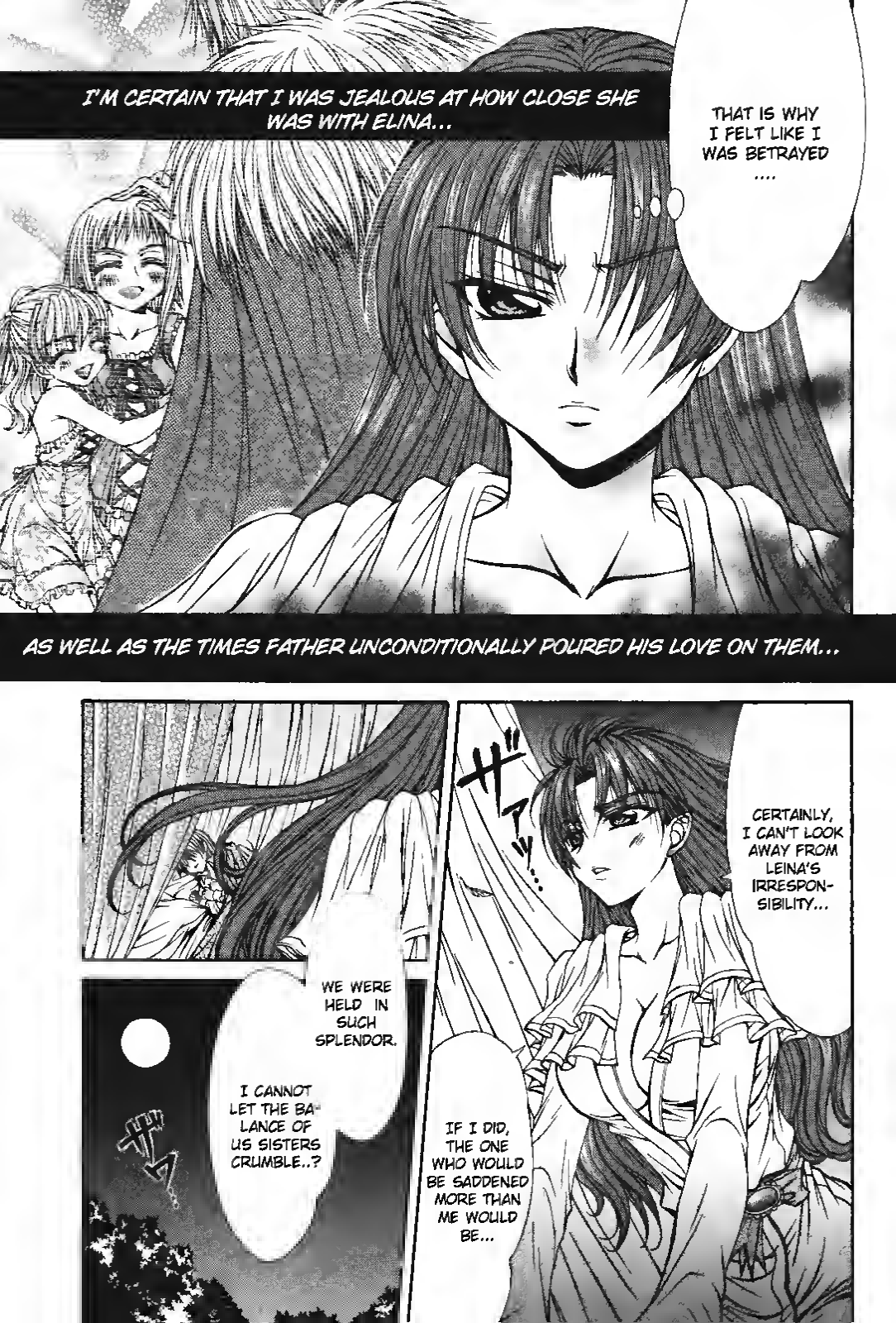


IF LEINA WAS HERE BY YOUR SIDE...
YOU WOULDN'T BE LIKE THIS...IF THAT'S THE CASE...
THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
I CAN'T FORGIVE LEINA FOR WHAT SHE HAS...
ギュウ...
THAT BEAUTIFUL SHIMMER IS RELEASED,
YOU WERE HONEST IN REGARDS TO THE THINGS YOU LIKE...
YOU ALWAYS HAD THAT SMILE THAT OVERFLOWED WITH SELF-CONFIDENCE.
THAT SHAPE IS THE RISE OF HER VITALITY.
YOU ARE THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF ME...
MOST OF ALL, I FELT THAT CHARM.

ス…
ギシ…
NO GOOD …
IF I DON'T COOL MY HEAD OFF FOR A BIT …
はあ
……
ヒタ…
ギシ…

I SHOULDN'T BE HOLDING MY FEELINGS OF HATRED TO THIS EX-TENT…
LEINA HAS DISAPPEARED FROM THIS PLACE FOR A LITTLE WHILE…
BUT ONE DAY, I WON'T BE PARTICULARLY HAPPY BEING HER VASSAL ….

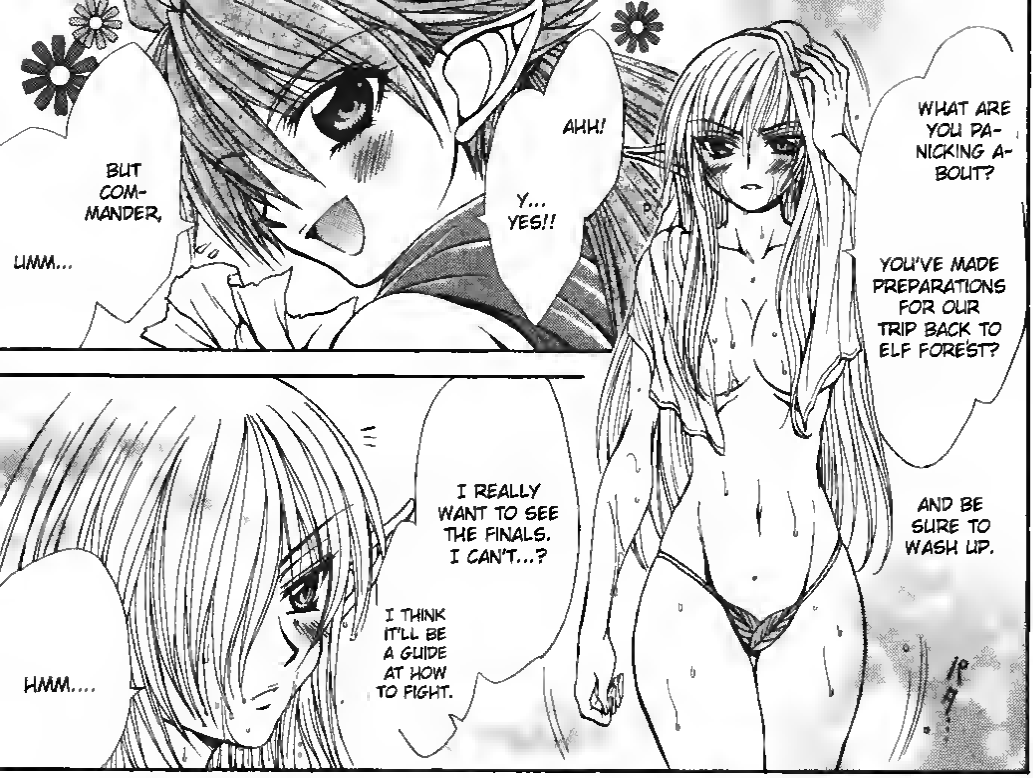

ガチャ…
ギイ…


I'M CERTAIN THAT I WAS JEALOUS AT HOW CLOSE SHE WAS WITH ELINA...
THAT IS WHY I FELT LIKE I WAS BETRAYED ....
AS WELL AS THE TIMES FATHER UNCONDITIONALLY POURED HIS LOVE ON THEM...
WE WERE HELD IN SUCH SPLENDOR.
I CANNOT LET THE BALANCE OF US SISTERS CRUMBLE..?
ザァッ...
CERTAINLY, I CAN'T LOOK AWAY FROM LEINA'S IRRESPONSIBILITY...
IF I DID, THE ONE WHO WOULD BE SADDENED MORE THAN ME WOULD BE...

バサバサ...
...!!
A MESSAGE FROM THE ROYAL COURTS ...!?
カタン
!!!
すうすう...
.....
FINALLY ...
ガバッ
!!
チュン...チュン...
AHH... I'M SO SLEEPY ...

GOOD MORNING, POPS.
カランカラン…
AHH …
OH? YOU'RE UP EARLY, ECHIDNA. YOU HAVE WORK?
I GUESS. GIVE ME SOMETHING TO PERK ME UP A LOT AND SOME CRAB.
OK!
HMM?
ガヤ
ガヤ…
WHAT'S THIS…? IT'S QUITE NOISY THIS MORNING.
OH? IT'S RARE TO SEE SOMEONE WHO IS WELL-INFROMED NOT TO KNOW ABOUT IT, ECHIDNA.
ガヤ…
LATE LAST NIGHT…
SOMETHING HAPPENED WITHIN THE QUEEN'S CAPITAL.
THERE WAS AN ACT OF TREASON.
ゴト…
OHH …?
THE DETAILS ARE STILL NOT KNOWN.
WELL, THE CULPRIT HAS BEEN CAUGHT. SO, THAT'S THE END OF THAT…

THAT PERSON WAS SO STUPID...
WITH THAT SAID...
TO-TALLY.
THAT QUEEN IS ONCE A-GAIN SO RECKLESS.
AND ...
HEY, NOWA!
AHH...
YES !?

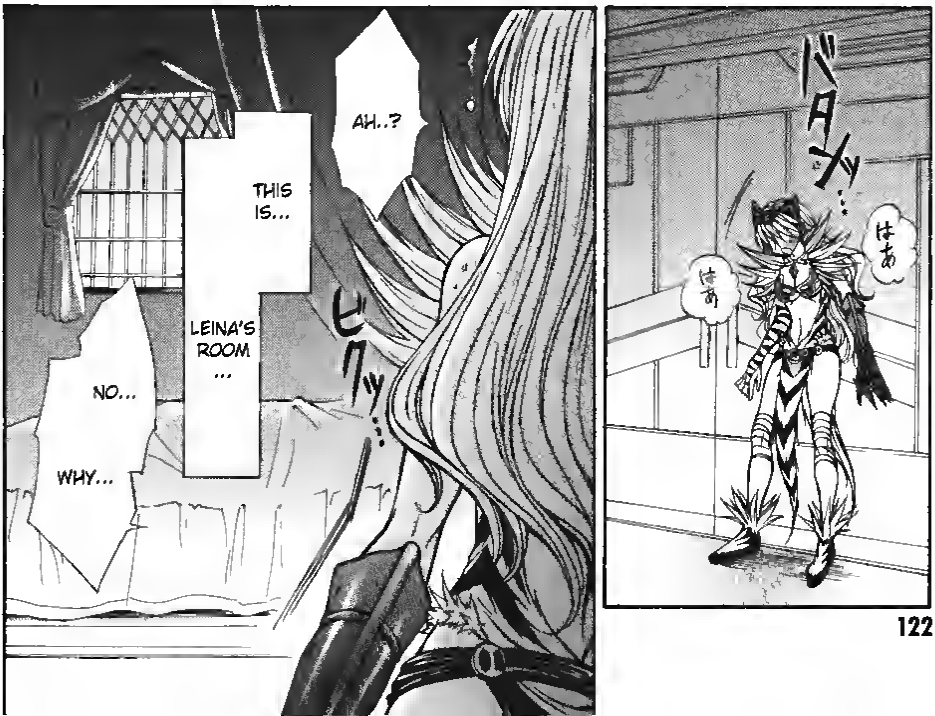

BUT COM-MANDER,
UMM...
AHH!
Y... YES!!
WHAT ARE YOU PA-NICKING A-BOUT?
YOU'VE MADE PREPARATIONS FOR OUR TRIP BACK TO ELF FORE'ST?
AND BE SURE TO WASH UP.
I REALLY WANT TO SEE THE FINALS. I CAN'T...?
I THINK IT'LL BE A GUIDE AT HOW TO FIGHT.
HMM....

.....
BUT...
キラーン
HEY...
EH!?
WHAT IS THAT?
WHAT WERE YOU HIDING JUST NOW!?
SEVEN-TEEN POINTS, NOWA!
SUS-PICIOUS!!
AH..UMM.... THIS IS...!! AHH!!
!!
THANK YOU, COMMAN-DER...
IT'S FINE.
YOU MAY NOT GET THAT MANY CHANCES TO BE IN CON-TACT WITH THE HUMAN WORLD LATER...

IF I LOOK, SHE'D ERUPT ...
THAT IS QUITE TROUBLE-SOME!
I'M STILL ASHAMED AT HOW AWFUL IT LOOKS!! SO, DON'T LOOK!!
THE OLD LADY OF THIS INN TAUGHT ME HOW TO WRITE...!!
YOU WON'T!? NO MAT-TER WHAT!?
YOU WENT ON YOUR OWN TO LEARN A-BOUT THINGS...
THAT'S THE AS-SERTIVE STUDYING ATTITUDE ...
T... THANK...
THANK YOU,
COM-MANDER ...
ギュッ
NINETY POINTS, NOWA.
THAT'S A NICE TREND...
YOU'VE GROWN UP.
N....
NO!!

IT MAY HURT WITH THERE BEING SO MANY THINGS THAT'LL MAKE YOU RECALL LEINA...
BUT, YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM REALITY FOREVER.
VANCE MANSION IS WHERE YOU BE-LONG.
YOU'RE A COM-MANDING OFFICER, ELINA.
ザワ...
NO...!
I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE!!
NO... I DON'T WANT TO ...
I FINALLY SHUT AWAY MY FEELINGS.
SEEING HER FACE IS OPENING UP MY HEART.
!!
IF BY CHANCE I LOSE TO LEINA,
YOU ARE TO GOVERN THIS MAN-SION AND TERRITORY ...
UNDER-STAND...
I COVER THAT BY BEING BY HER SIDE... AND BEING MORE KIND TO HER...
I ACTED LIKE I FOR-GOT ALL ABOUT IT...

AHH... ELINA...!!
カンカンカン
IT CAN'T BE HELPED ...
THAT WOULD BE USE-LESS IN REGARDS TO ME...!
.....
ELINA ...
.....
BUT, AM I REALLY OKAY WITH THIS...!?


AH..?
THIS IS...
LEINA'S ROOM ...
NO...
WHY...
ビクッ...
バタッ...
はあ
はあ

AHH... ELINA!
COULD YOU COME HERE? I'LL READ THAT BOOK.
YOU COULD NOT SLEEP?
SO, WHY DON'T YOU SLEEP NEXT TO ME?
YOU HAD A SCARY DREAM.
HEY ELINA,
THIS WORLD HAS SO MANY COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE... THERE IS SUCH A SCENERY.
NOT JUST IN BOOKS... WHEN I GROW UP....
I WANT TO GO ON A JOURNEY AND SEE THE WORLD WHENEVER I WANT...
OHH
OHH....
SIS...
SIS....

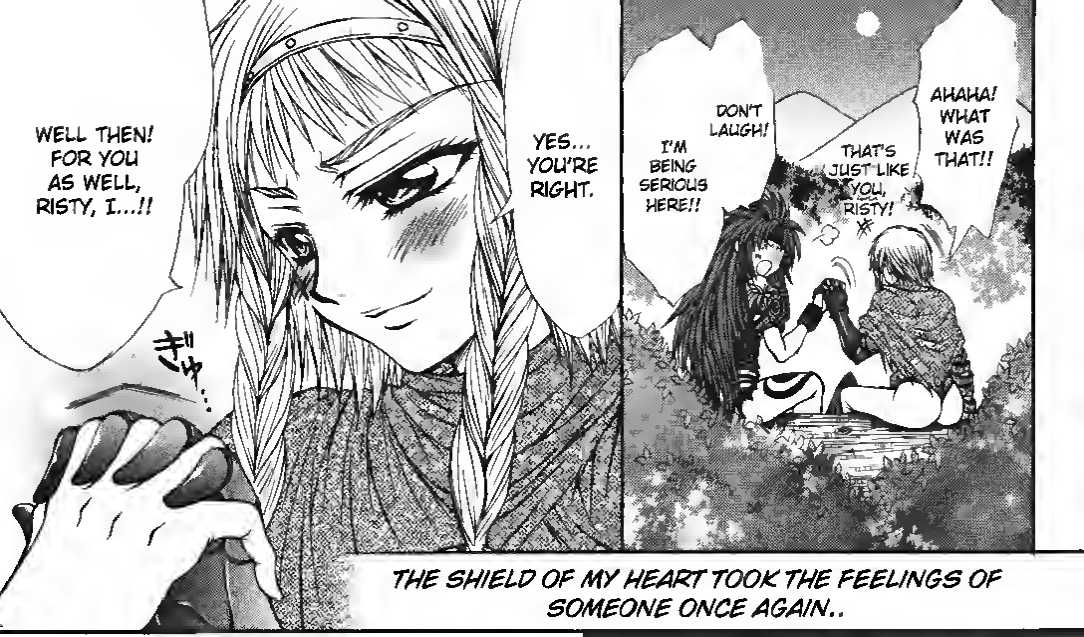
SIS...
MM...
WAA...
YOU'LL BE DUELING LEINA...?
YES.
I SEE...
IF THAT'S THE CASE... I'LL LEAVE THE ENTIRE CASE INVOLVING LEINA TO YOU...
PHEW...
YES...I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL.
GENERAL...
DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION, I WON'T HARM LEINA...
BUT...
I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT I MIGHT TAKE HER LIFE....
WHAT...!?
WHAT WAS THAT!?
PREPARE YOURSELF...
I WILL DEFEAT LEINA. ON TOP OF THAT, I'LL CRUSH QUEEN ALDRA.
AND THEN, I WILL TAKE OVER THE CONTINENT.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'LL TAKE THE QUEEN'S THRONE.
LET US POUR OUR HEARTS INTO A GOVERNMENT THAT IS BENEFICIAL TO BOTH VANCE AND THE POPULACE.
NO... FATHER...
HONESTLY, WHILE LEINA IS THE HEIR TO THE FAMILY NAME... I DON'T THINK YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT THIS FAMILY'S FUTURE.
YOU UNGRATEFUL GIRL... WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU SAYING..!
LISTEN TO MY FINAL WORDS, EARL....
IF WE ARE ALL EQUAL SUBSTANTIALLY,
MEMBERS OF THE VANCE HOUSE CAN SEIZE EVERYTHING ON THIS CONTINENT...
WHAT FOOLISHNESS...!
FOR STARTERS, THIS CONTINENT WAS OURS!!
BECAUSE OF THAT, THE DISGUSTING QUEEN'S BLADE SYSTEM WAS CREATED...!!
BUT EVEN SO, I ...!!
WHY SHOULD WE FOLLOW THE RULES OF HAVING A QUEEN DECIDED!!
YOU WERE NOT RAISED TO UNDERGO SUCH A PLAN!!
.....!!

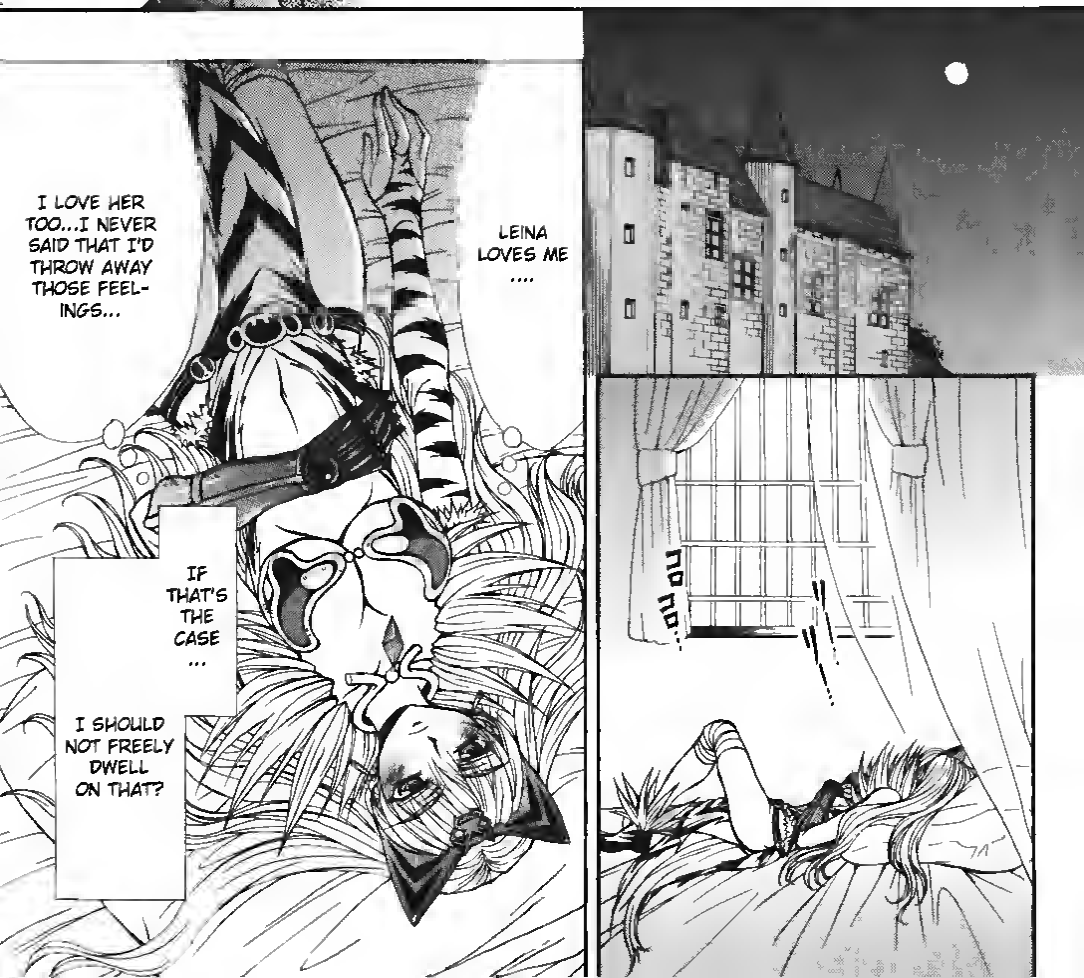
MY MARIA...
LOST HER LIFE BECAUSE OF THAT WRETCHED TOURNAMENT...
AND NOW, MY OWN BOND WITH MY DAUGHTERS IS GOING TO BE TAKEN FROM ME...?
.....
A PERSON WHO CAN STOP THEMSELVES...
THERE ISN'T ANYONE HERE WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM AFTER THEY SPEAK...
BUT EVEN SO, WE ARE NOW BROKEN AWAY FROM EACH OTHER....
カツ...
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO AFTER THAT...IS TO SHOW HOW I FEEL THROUGH MY ACTIONS....
EXCUSE ME THEN...
カツン...
カツン...
IF YOU WERE MARIA'S DAUGHTER.....
CLAUDETTE...
I...
パァン...
ギャー...
ギャー...

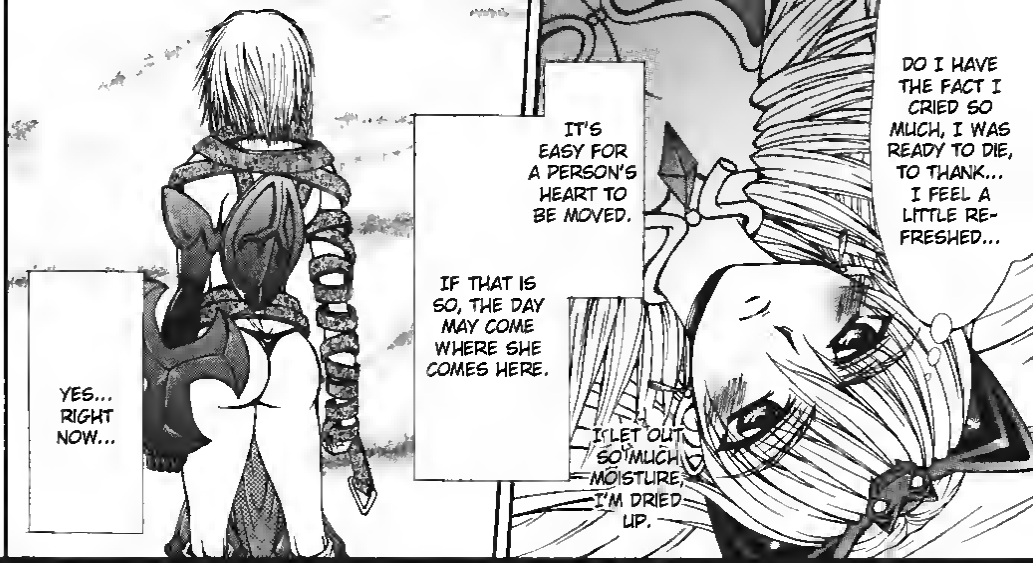
CLAUDETTE AND I ....
バチン
バチッ
YOU SCARED ME..AND IS YOUR BODY DOING OKAY? YOUR MATCH A FEW DAYS AGO..
HEH! PAYBACK FROM EARLIER!
RISTY!?
GYAH!!
YO!
LEINA!
I HAD TO BE LOOKED AT AFTER TAKING THAT ONE KILLING SHOT FROM CLAUDETTE. SERVES ME RIGHT THOUGH.
YEAH. I WAS NOT READY FOR THAT. OWW...
ドカッ

IT'S TRUE.
IT ALL STARTED WHEN I MET YOU ...
JEEZ ....
THE FAIR PRINCESS HAS COME THIS FAR.
YEP...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE MATCH HAS BEEN DECIDED.
バンッ
ビュッ
"I'LL BE THE STRONGEST ON THE CONTINENT!!"
I'LL SHOUT THAT OUT FROM ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAINS.
バチッ
YOU WIN...
YOU'RE MY RIVAL.
ONE DAY, I'LL BEAT YOU WHEN YOU BECOME THE STRONGEST. WHEN THAT HAPPENS...
RISTY?


WELL THEN! FOR YOU AS WELL, RISTY, I...!!
YES... YOU'RE RIGHT.
AHAHA! WHAT WAS THAT!!
DON'T LAUGH!
I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE!!
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, RISTY!

THE SHIELD OF MY HEART TOOK THE FEELINGS OF SOMEONE ONCE AGAIN..


I LOVE HER TOO...I NEVER SAID THAT I'D THROW AWAY THOSE FEELINGS...
LEINA LOVES ME ....
IF THAT'S THE CASE ...
I SHOULD NOT FREELY DWELL ON THAT?
NO NO...


DO I HAVE THE FACT I CRIED SO MUCH, I WAS READY TO DIE, TO THANK... I FEEL A LITTLE REFRESHED...
I LET OUT SO MUCH MOISTURE, I'M DRIED UP.
IT'S EASY FOR A PERSON'S HEART TO BE MOVED.
IF THAT IS SO, THE DAY MAY COME WHERE SHE COMES HERE.
YES... RIGHT NOW...

I'M NOT THAT GOOD AT DEALING WITH HER, BUT I RECOGNIZE THAT LOVE FOR MY OLDEST SISTER, CLAUDETTE, DOES EXIST AS WELL...

ワイ
アアア
EVERY-ONE!!
IT'S THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL QUEEN'S BLADE TOURNA-MENT!!
FINALLY HERE IN GAINOS...
WE HAVE REMOVED THE CO-VER FOR THE CANNON THAT IS THE FINALS!

クイーンズブレイド
Blade Spark

ってゆーかメルファあ!!
いつの間にアタシたち負けちゃったワケ!?
ありえないイ!!
いうなれば『尺』という名の魔物に負けたのですわ…
ナナエル様…
ホロリ

NOW! THE WINNER OF THESE FINALS,
WILL EARN THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE THE CURRENT QUEEN, QUEEN ALDRA.
THE ROAD JOINED WITH THE PEAK OF THE CONTINENT IS NOW OPEN!!
THE ONE WHO WILL GET THIS CHANCE...
SHALL IT BE...
ワアア
オオォ...
ワ
ワアアア
ウォォォ...
ガラガラ
ガラ
ワエ...
ガラ
ガラガラ
ガッ
ガッ
ガラ
ガラ...

ピクッ…
ワアア…
THE WANDERING WARRIOR, LEINA!
CLAUDETTE!
OR THE THUNDER CLOUD GENERAL, CLAUDETTE!
LEINA!
ウオオオオオ…!
STRANGELY, IT'S ONCE AGAIN A BATTLE BETWEEN SISTERS!
THE OLDEST DAUGHTER AND PROTECTOR OF THE VANCE HOUSE...
AND THE MIDDLE DAUGHTER AND HEIR TO THE VANCE NAME!
ガラガラ
ガラガラ…

MY APOLOGIES.
WHAT..?
BUT, THE ROAD IS BACKED UP....
BEYOND THIS POINT, WE WON'T MAKE IT. ON TIME ON HORSE AND CARRIAGE...
ガヤ
ガヤ
はっ
...NA
LADY ELINA..!

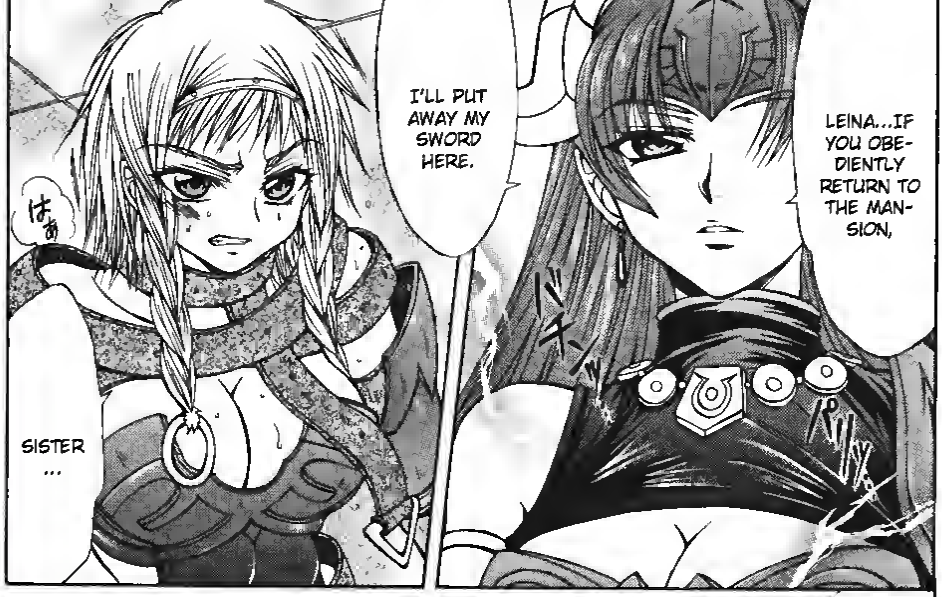
YOU'RE GOING TO RUN TO THE ARENA ...?
NO MATTER WHAT, THIS RUMBLING WORRY OF MINE ...
IS BE-CAUSE I WAS LATE WITH MY DEPAR-TURE.
YES.
IT'S FINE.
I'M GETTING OFF HERE.
LADY ELINA!?
ガチャ

HUP!
OKAY!
BE CARE-FUL!
IT'S FINE IF YOU SHOW UP LATER.
HUP!
THAT'S RIGHT. NO MATTER WHAT, IT CAN'T BE HELPED HA-VING IT CRUMBLED.
THAT'S JUST LIKE ME.
FOR EXAM-PLE,
WHAT TYPE OF RESULTS WERE TO COME OUT.
IF I WORRY, JUST THINK A-BOUT IT.
AND THEN MOVE.
NOW...
LADY ELINA ...
BATTLE... START!

第27話 movin' on

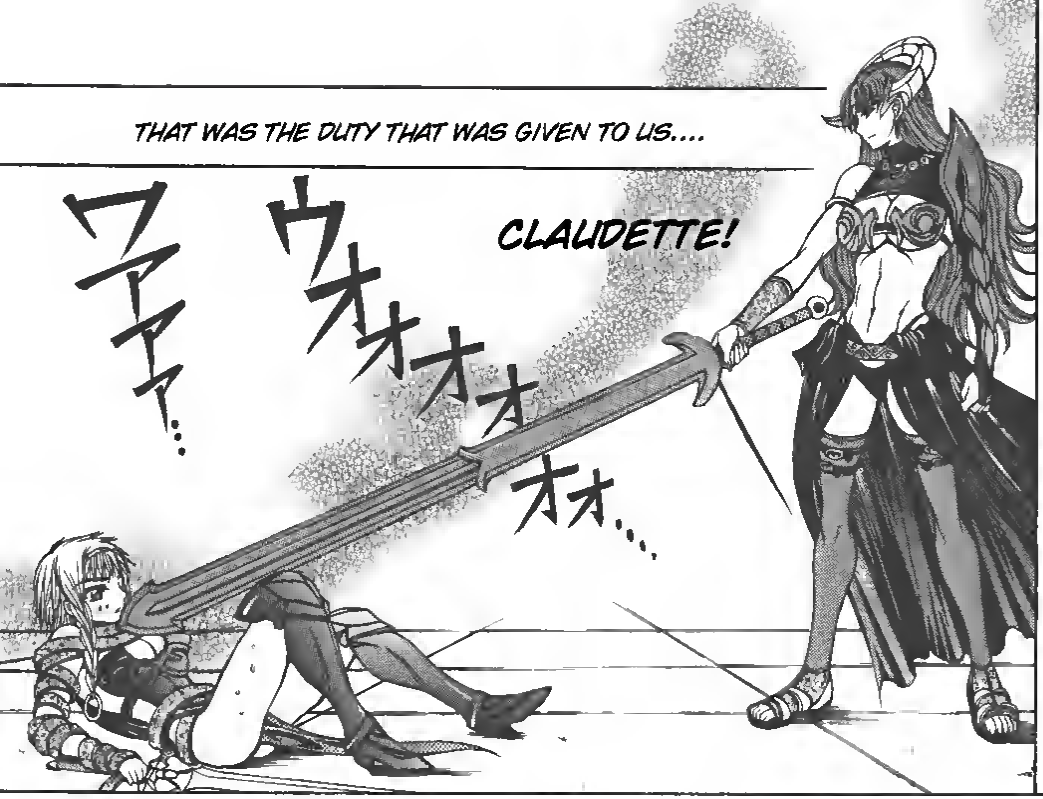
HAA!!

!!
ゴロゴロ…
バチッ
パリッ
バチバチ
GUH …
バチッ
バチッ!!
KUH …
ガシャ



IF THE FAMILY'S BALANCE CAN BE RESTORED WITH LEINA'S RETURN...

IF YOU PLEDGE YOUR LIFE FOR THE PROSPERITY OF THE VANCE HOUSE FROM NOW ON...
IF YOU PLEDGE TO REDEEM YOURSELF,
I WON'T HOLD BACK AND ASSIST YOU.



NATURALLY, THE SWORD SHOULD ALSO RETURN TO ITS SHEATH...

AND ...
ELINA AS WELL ....
THE COURSE FOR WHAT WE ARE SEARCHING FOR
MAY INDEED BROUGHT US CLOSE TO EACH OTHER.
カシャ...
HOWEVER.... THE ROADS THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN HAS GREATLY SEPERATED US!
THAT IS ALL!!
!!

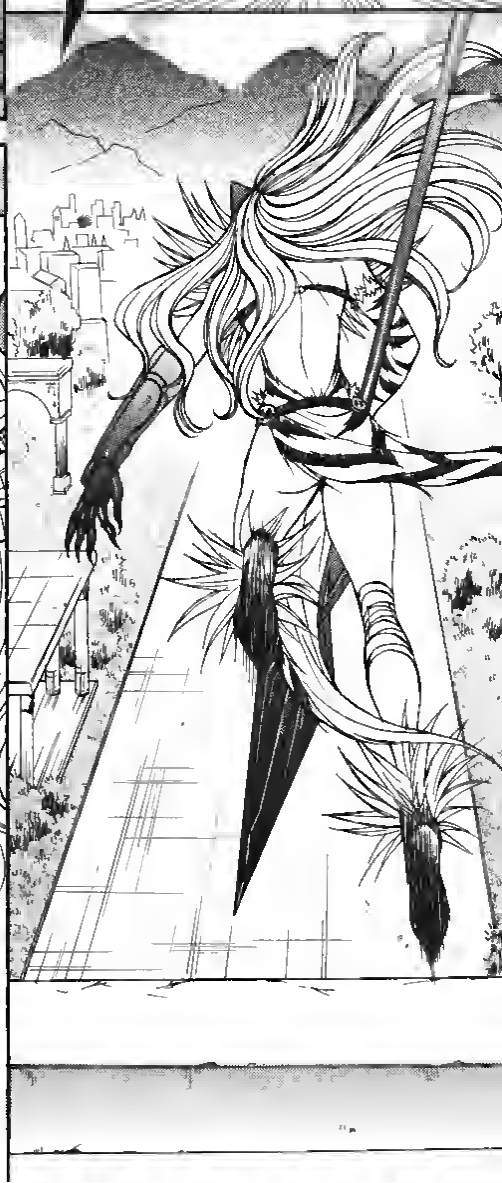
PERHAPS, WE RESEMBLE ONE ANOTHER?
OH ...
SHE WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL SHE GETS WHAT SHE WANTS ...
EVER SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD...SHE WAS QUITE STUBBORN WHEN SHE DECIDED ON SOMETHING ONCE...
ガシャン
SUCH A THING IS LOVELY AND TANTALIZING.
LEINA!!
ウオオオオ
カシャ
ウワイッ
WE WON'T CONCEDE WHAT WE THINK UNTIL WE CERTAINLY COME TO A MUTUAL AGREEMENT...
I WON'T RELY ON MY TITLE!! RATHER I'LL BECOME STRONG WITH MY OWN STRENGTH!!
I WON'T GO BACK!

FOR EXAMPLE, I PUSH TO BRING HER BACK WITH MY OWN POWER.
OHH ...
SOMEONE LIKE YOU ...
LEINA CERTIANLY PUTS THE SAME THING BACK AT ME...

I'LL PUT THE WORDS I TOLD FATHER INTO PRACTICE...!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, RIGHT HERE...!
GUH....

くるん
A-PER-SON FELL FROM THE SKY...!
WHOA!
ドーン!!

ドン!!



はぁ?
はぁ?
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS CITY BEING SO VAST ...!!
GOD ...
ざわ..
IS THAT ...
ELINA?
スック
ざわ

HEY, YOU! THE FINALS ARE STILL GOING!?
YES...IT HASN'T BEEN DECIDED YET ...!
A BEAUTIFUL WARRIOR TALKED TO ME
YOU GOT IT GOOD
OKAY!
I HAVE TO HURRY!
THE FEELING OF NOT WANTING TO SEE MY SISTERS FIGHT
AND THAT OBLIGATION OF IF I DON'T MAKE SURE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING ...
I CAN'T BE AFRAID OF REALITY.
I MUST MOVE EVEN FASTER.
BECAUSE IF CLAUDETTE SERIOUSLY GOES ALL OUT, LEINA ....!
OH ....
HM !?

ワアア…
AHHH!!
…..!?

THAT WAS CLAUDETTE'S!?
I WITNESSED THIS SPECTACLE BEFORE.
I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS THE TIME SHE WAS FIGHTING AGAINST YMIR...
ガクガク…
OH GOD... LEINA...!?
DON'T JOKE WITH ME!
DON'T TELL ME! I DON'T WANT TO THINK CLAUDETTE TOOK LEINA'S LIFE...
IF IT'S HER, SHE GETS WAY TOO SERIOUS...!?
BE SAFE, SIS!!

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO LEINA,
I'M GOING TO BE ANGRY AND HOLD A GRUDGE A-GAINST CLAUDETTE!
AT THE SAME TIME, I'LL LOSE THEM BOTH IN THE STORE-HOUSE OF MY HEART.
I'M SORRY ... ABOUT THAT...
クク...
HMPH
クラウディーア!!
CLAUDETTE!
OHH ...
ガシャッ

AHH ...
GUH ...
WHY A-BANDON THE EARL'S FAMILY?
PERSONALLY SEARCHING FOR STRENGTH, YOU EVEN BE-COME A WANDERER...!
SISTER ...
LEINA ...
WHAT ARE YOU FIGHT-ING FOR?
OHH...
ピィーン
ゴロゴロ
ガガガッ

YOU ONLY WANT TO BECOME STRONG?
MY WISH ....
MY REASON FOR FIGHT-ING...?
I'M ASKING YOU...
WHY DO YOU WANT FREE-DOM?
ヒィンッ!
オオ... ワアアアアァ...
SHE MAY BE...IN A BIT OF A BIND.
ALTHOUGH IT'S THE RE-SULT OF A SERIOUS BATTLE...
IF THAT WERE TO HAPPENED, HER LIFE WILL BE TAKEN IN FRONT OF OUR EYES...
MS. LEINA...!
ワアァ...

ワアアアア…
オオオオ…
LEINA …
ワアアー…
ウオー…
CLAUDETTE!!
SO STRONG …
SHE'S THE THUNDER CLOUD GENERAL…? WHILE SHE'S HUMAN, SHE HOLDS SUCH A SUBSTANTIAL NATURE.
ウワア
THIS MATCH IS AMAZING.
BUT, MS. ECHIDNA ISN'T COMING?
HMM …

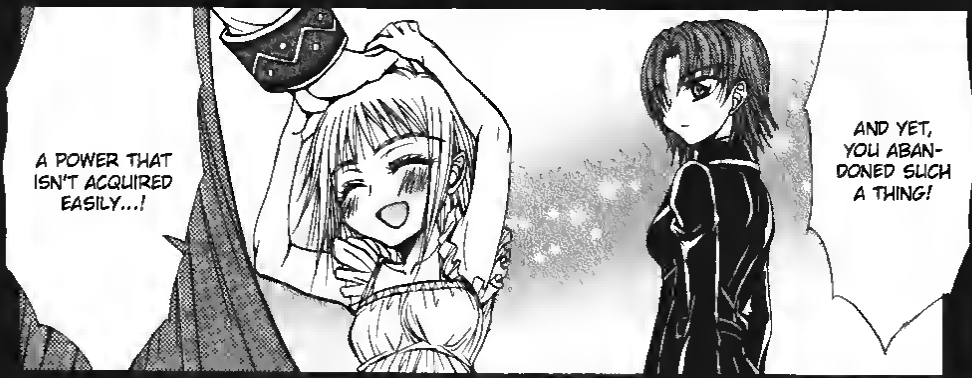
IF YOU ALLOW OTHER INTEREST TO SEEP THROUGH THE FORM OF ABIDING WHAT YOUR HEART SHOWS YOU DISAPPEARS...
SHE'S FICKLE.
SHE'S DOING SOME SIGHTSEEING ON A HEIGHT SOMEWHERE...
SHE'S LIKE THAT.
WHAT ...
YOUR HEART SHOWS YOU...?

はあ
I DIDN'T BELIEVE WHAT HE SAID.
AND BESIDES, I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN, BEING MY SERIOUS SISTER'S OPPONENT.
BUT...
カツン...
カツン...
ワァァ...
DO YOUR BEST, LEINA!
ウォォ...
GOOD ...
SIS IS STILL OKAY...
I HEAR ABOUT THE SITUATION WHERE ECHIDNA WAS GOING TO INTERVENE ....

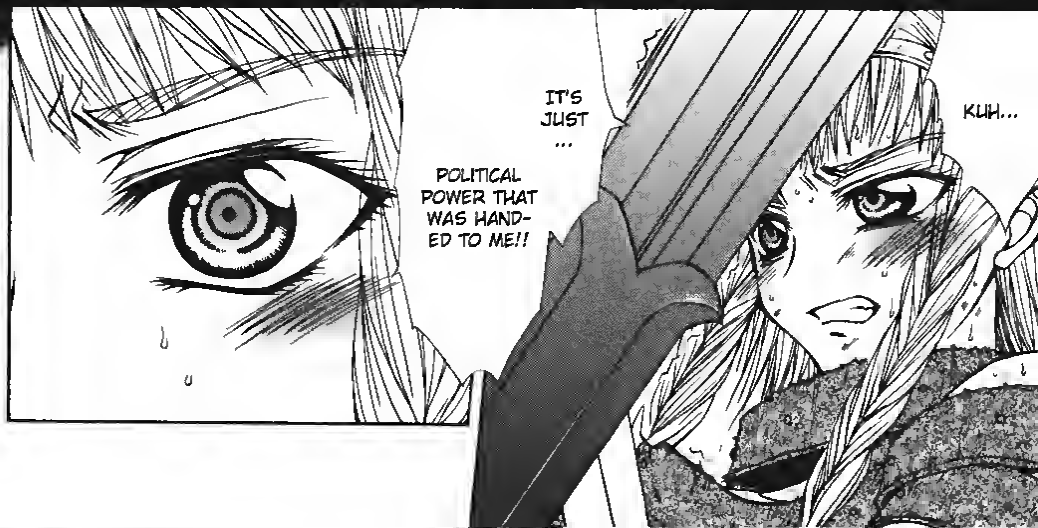
I'M READY TO SET FREE HOW I FEEL FOR HER...
THAT IS WHY,
EVEN THOUGH SIS WOULD NOT WISH FOR IT,
CLAUDETTE IS NOT ONE WHO WOULD START THINGS.
I BELIEVE IN THAT.
IF I CAN DO THAT....I WON'T HATE CLAUDETTE EITHER!
YOUR WISH FOR FREEDOM IS NOTHING MORE THAN A WISH TO BE FREE OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES!!
YOU GOT THAT?
LEINA...!
I... I...!
I FIGHT TO SEE THE JUSTICE I BELIEVE IN GO THROUGH ...!!
EVERYONE HAS A SOCIAL STANDING. THEY EACH LIVE AND BEAR THEIR DUTIES AND THEIR MISSION!
JUSTICE!? WHAT A JOKE!!

EVENTUALLY, THAT TOO CAN BE CORRECTED AND BE PUT TO USE!!
BUT, THAT DEPENDS ON THE WIELDER OF SUCH POWER...!!
ガガッ
CERTAINLY, THE POWER OF THE VANCE HOUSE MAY HAVE BEEN DISTORTED...

NATURALLY, LEINA HAD THAT RIGHT.



BECAUSE I HAVE COMMONER AS WELL AS NOBLE BLOOD, NOTHING THAT I WISHED FOR WAS GIVEN TO ME.



I AM NOT INTERESTED IN THAT!!
HMPH
I KNEW IT...
THAT LEINA ...
IS RELEASING THE SHINE OF A HIDDEN POWER THAT IS BEING DRIVEN OUT...
IT IS TRUE THAT I AM IGNORANT OF THE WAYS OF THE WORLD!
AND AT THE START, I MAY HAD RAN AWAY FROM HOME TO GET AWAY FROM THE PRESSURE OF NOBILITY!!

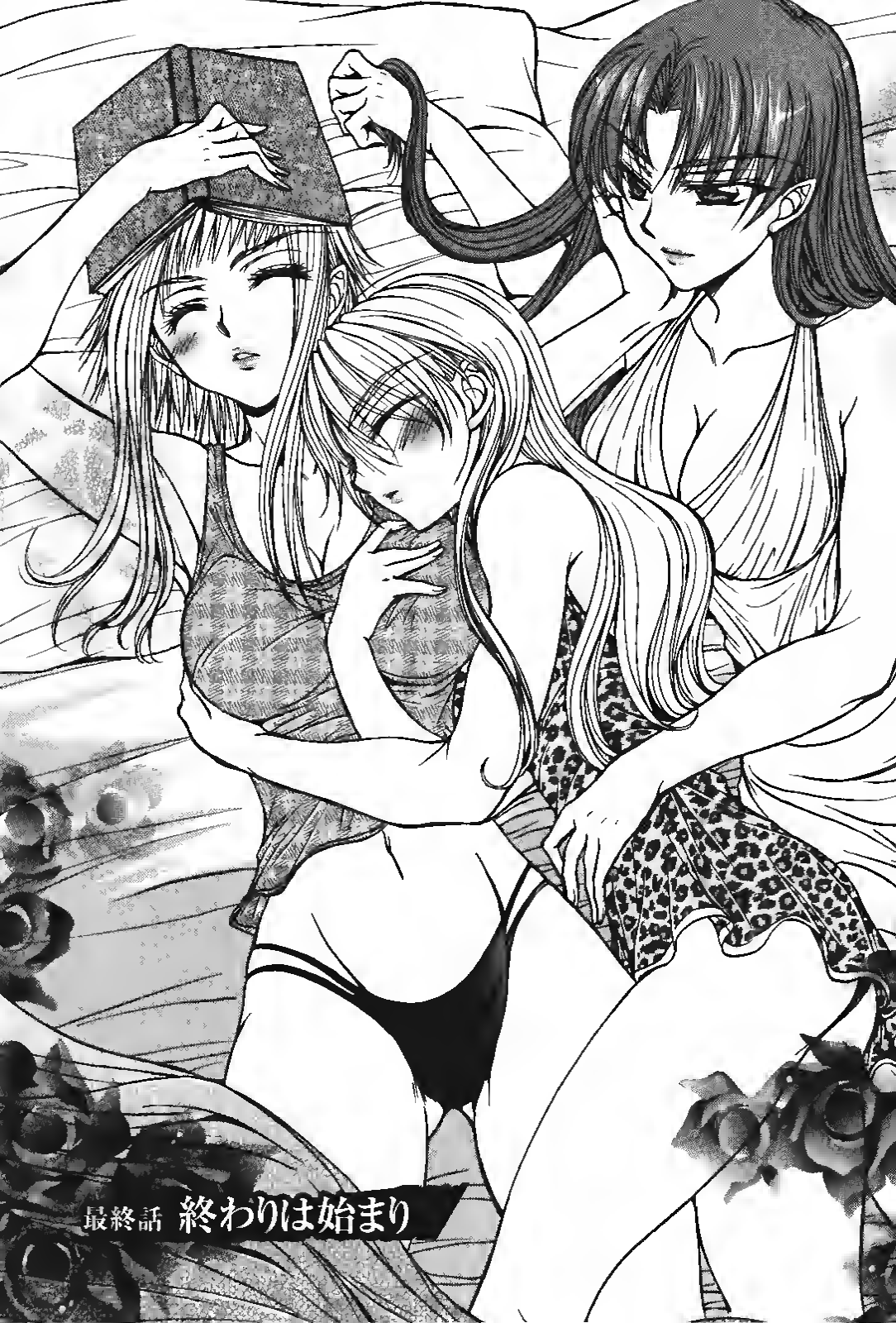
THE FIRST TIME I STOOD AT THE SAME EYE LEVEL AS THE COMMON PEOPLE...
HOWEVER....THERE IS NO DOUBT I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING FROM ON TOP OF THAT CASTLE!
VILLAGER CRYING IN FRONT OF THEIR EYES, BUT, NO ONE WOULD HELP THEM ...
WHEN THEY WERE HAVING FUN,
AND WHEN THEY WISHED FOR SOMETHING.
I SAW WHEN THEY WERE ALL IN TROUBLE,
HOW IN THE HELL IS ANY OF THAT JUSTICE!!

BUT, I MET PEOPLE WHO SAW ME FOR ME, JUST A REGULAR PERSON...
MOST OF ALL, IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM.
CAN YOU SEE ME AS JUST A PERSON?
BESIDES...
DURING TIMES OF GREAT POWER, IT WILL THEN DRIVE A PERSON MAD.
THAT I EXIST UP UNTIL THIS POINT...
THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT TO CHANGE. IT'S THE FACT THAT I HAVE SO CALLED RICHES AND PROPERTY...!

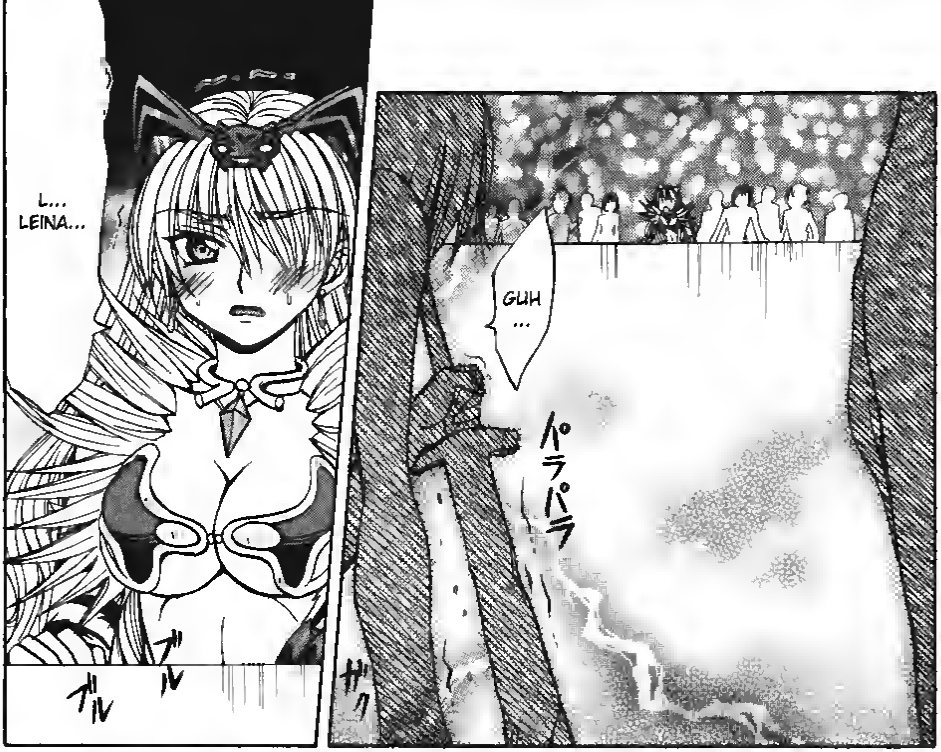
I THOUGHT I WAS USED TO ISOLATION...BUT, YOU EXISTS IN FRONT OF MY EYES...
I CAME CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE AND THIS WORLD. I WANTED TO MAKE SURE OF WHAT TRUE POWER IS...!
I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT I HAVE ACQUIRED WHAT I WISHED FOR....AS I LIVE MY LIFE...
オオオオッ..
ワアア..
LEI-NA!!
CLAU-DETTE!
THUNDER CLAP IN ONE BLOW!
HAAAA!!
THAT IS WHY I FIGHT.. NO! THAT IS THE REASON WHY I LIVE!!
SO, WHY ONLY YOU...!!

HAAAA!!
最終話 終わりは始まり
LEINA!!
CLAU-
DETTE!!
カッ
Oo。

OHH ...
ビリッ
ビリッ
S...
SIS ...
AHH!!
ワァ
ゲキ
SIS...!!



最終話 終わりは始まり


L...
LEINA...
ブル
ブル
ブル
GUH
...
パラパラ
ガク

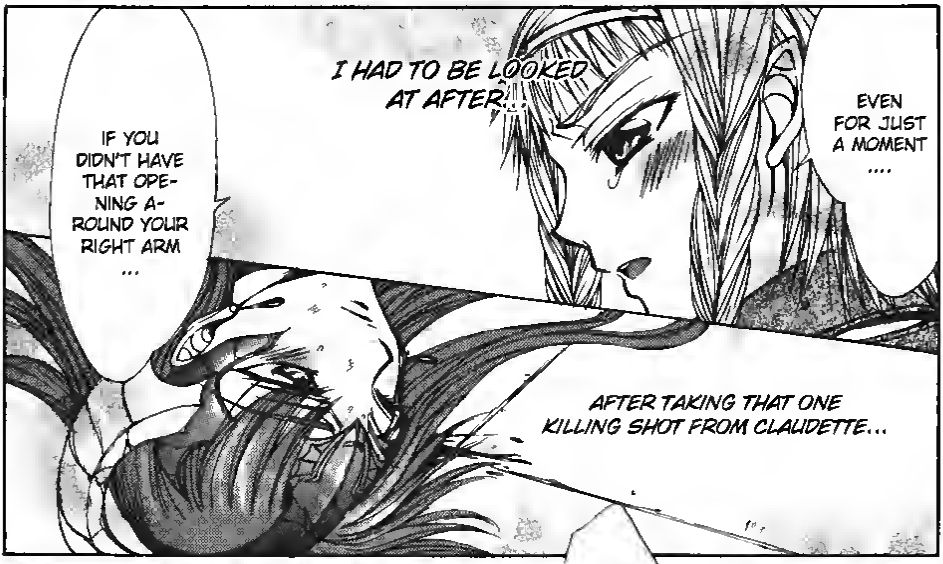
C...
CLAU-
DETTE!?
OHH
...
.....?

ワアアアアア
カラン
ガシャン
OH! CLAUDETTE IS DOWN!!
AHH...
OH...
はっ
FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER IN THIS TOURNAMENT!!
WILL SHE BE ABLE TO STAND UP?
THAT TECHNIQUE'S EXPLOSION...!?
はっCLAUDETTE!!
ワアア!!
ヨロ...
ウオオ...
LEINA ATTACKED WITH ALL SHE HAD ...
COUNTERED, AND BROKE MY SWORD ...
パラ

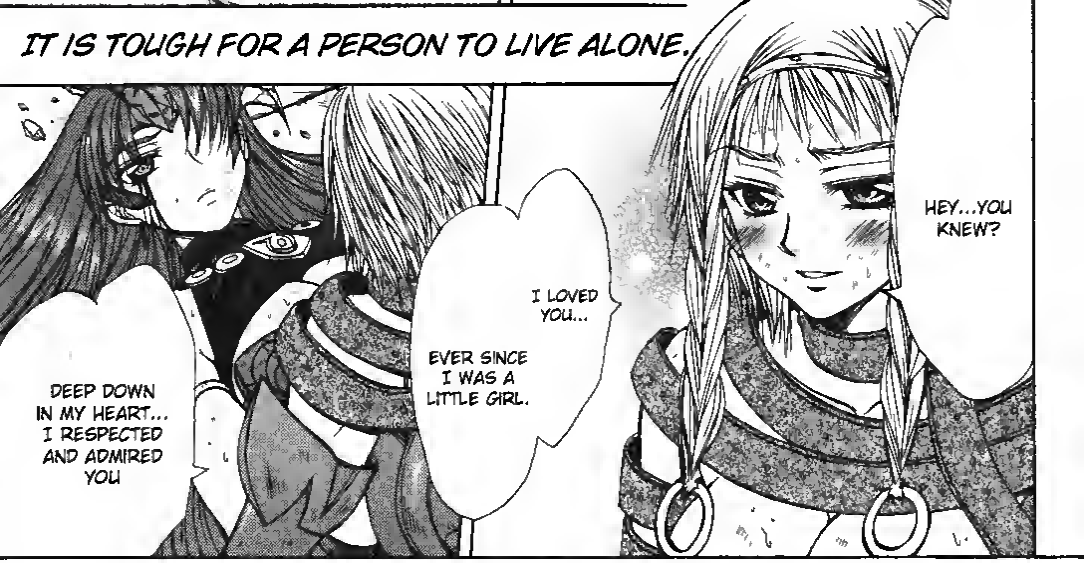
ゼ ゼ
THIS IS THE LIMIT
ピシッ
ズル…
THIS IS...
STRENGTH THAT IS REWARDED TO AN E-XTRAVAGANT PERSON..?
ウオオ…
CLAUDETTE
ワアア…!!
STAND UP!
ズッ…
FOR SOMEONE WHO CARRIES THE WORLD
THE THUNDER CLOUD GENERAL, CLAU-DETTE...

ON HER OWN...
IS UNABLE TO FIGHT...
WIN-NER!!
THE WANDERING WARRIOR, LEINA!!
ワアアアアア!!
LEINA!!
ウオオオオ
LEINA...
ワー!!
I LOST ...
YOU ARE IN-EXPERI-ENCED AS WELL.
NO... THAT'S NOT IT, SISTER.

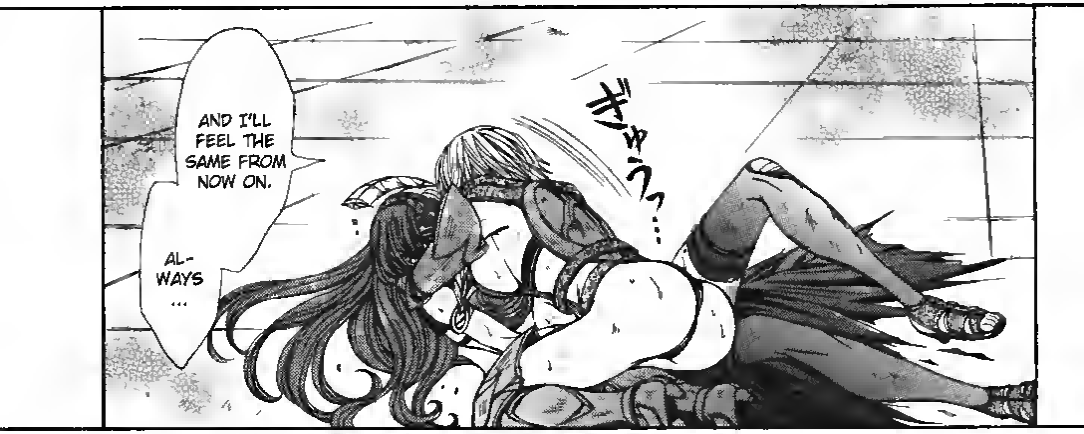
IT WASN'T FLAW-LESS?
YOU NOTICED ...?
....!!
カラン...
IT WASN'T ...
JUST MY STRENGTH.


I HAD TO BE LOOKED AT AFTER...
EVEN FOR JUST A MOMENT ....
IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT OPE-NING A-ROUND YOUR RIGHT ARM ...
AFTER TAKING THAT ONE KILLING SHOT FROM CLAUDETTE...

ワアアア!!
LEINA!!
I WOULD HAVE CERTAIN-LY...
ワアア...


IT IS TOUGH FOR A PERSON TO LIVE ALONE.
DEEP DOWN IN MY HEART... I RESPECTED AND ADMIRED YOU
EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.
I LOVED YOU...
HEY...YOU KNEW?

I DIDN'T KNOW OF SOMETHING SO OBVIOUS. EVEN FOR JUST A BIT, WAS THAT MESSAGE SENT



TO A WISE OLDER SISTER...?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME... LEINA AND I TOUCHED EACH OTHER LIKE THIS ...
PERHAPS, THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST TIME...?
HER BODY IS SO SOFT AND WARM.
LEINA ...
IT FEELS LIKE I WANT TO CRY.

I....I NEVER SAW THAT ...
ABOUT YOU...
AHH ...
ワアアア
RIGHT NOW, IT'S HARD TO SAY WHAT I'M SEEING...BUT...
I'M SEEING IT NOW...?
I THINK I WANT TO SEE IT FOR MYSELF FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE...
STARTING FROM HERE... THE ROAD THAT YOU ARE SEEKING...
IS THIS THE HEAT OF BLOOD FLOWING DOWN MY CHEEKS...?
NO...
ギュッ...
ワアアアア...
SISTER!!

THESE TEARS ARE STILL HOT, BUT THEY BRING ME PEACE.
THESE ARE MY FIRST SET OF TEARS SINCE LOSING MY MOTHER ...
I'VE BEEN BROKEN IN PLACES.
THIS PREMONITION IS WHAT REDUCES A COLD PERSON.
ピクッ
ELINA, COME HERE.
S...
ビクッ
カシャ…ン

ワァァ…
ピ
ワー…
SIS!!
WAA!..
OH...
ポテ
ウオオ…
PFH!
ワアア…
LEINA!!
AHH...
ドキ…
ワァァ!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
ピィ
LIKE THIS...
SISTER ...
ELINA ...
I SAW HER WOUNDED

PANIC!!
THE THREE OF US HAVEN'T BEEN TOGETHER IN A LONG TIME. WHAT SHOULD I DO...
CLAUDETTE IS HERE AS WELL.
あああああ
AHH....I WANT TO HUG LEINA RIGHT NOW.
BUT...
COME SIT NEXT TO ME,
ELINA.
ぽん
TAKE CARE OF OUR SISTER.
THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS I HAVE TO DO.
I HAVE TO GET GOING...
ELINA ...
OHH... I'M SO HAPPY...
THAT'S A GOOD GIRL.
ぺたん

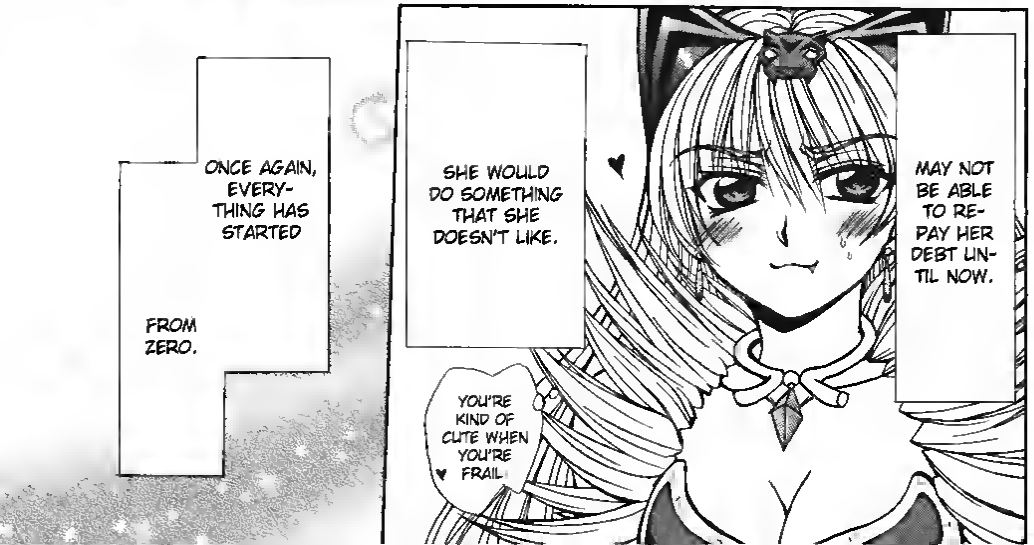
GO.... WHERE!? SIS!!
LEINA!!
WE'RE SEPE-RATING AGAIN...? I DON'T WANT THAT...
LEINA!!
NOW THEN!!
DON'T WORRY...
LEINA, WHO WON THIS TOURNA-MENT...
HAS EARNED THE RIGHT TO FIGHT THE CURRENT QUEEN, QUEEN ALDRA!!
QUEEN ALDRA! QUEEN ALDRA!

WE MAY BE SEPERATED ...
BUT, WE EXIST IN EACH OTHER'S HEARTS.
WHICH ONE WILL COME OUT ON TOP!!
TO SIT UPON THE THRONE, AS THE NEW QUEEN,
A CONFIDENCE THAT HAS NO FOUNDATION,
A POWERFUL GAZE,
AN UNSHAKABLE BELIEF...
I KNEW IT...I LOVE HER. ♡
SIS...

YOU CAN THINK ABOUT HOW IT GOOD IT IS TO BE ABLE TO RELY ON ELINA AND OTHERS A-ROUND YOU!?
YOU TOO, SISTER!!
BE MORE HONEST WITH YOURSELF FROM NOW ON.

CLAU-DETTE AS WELL,

SISTER!
HMPH... SO BE IT THEN. OWW...


ONCE AGAIN, EVERY-THING HAS STARTED FROM ZERO.
SHE WOULD DO SOMETHING THAT SHE DOESN'T LIKE.
YOU'RE KIND OF CUTE WHEN YOU'RE FRAIL.
MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RE-PAY HER DEBT UN-TIL NOW.

WELL THEN, I'LL BE GOING!!
OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN REBUILT ANEW ONCE AGAIN.
OKAY THEN ...
BE CAREFUL, SIS!!
THE ROADS WE ARE ON HAS SEPERATED AGAIN.
OKAY.
I UNDERSTAND!!
BUT WHAT IS FACING US ON OUR JOURNEY,

THERE WAS A LIGHT
SHINING.
ワァァ…
ワ
EX-TRA!!
EX-TRA!!
THE TWILIGHT QUEEN, ALDRA
HAS BEEN DEFEATED BY THE WANDERING WARRIOR, LEINA.
IT'S THE BIRTH OF A NEW QUEEN!!
SO, IT'S TRUE THAT ALDRA IS HALF DEMON...?
AND FOR SOME REASON, SHE WAS POSSESSED BY A DEMON TOO...
THAT'S KIND OF SCARY MASTER FUNIKURA ...
THAT'S KIND OF SCARY ...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DEFEATED ALDRA...?
ブル ブル

IT LOOKS LIKE...
SHE WENT ON HER OWN JOURNEY SOMEWHERE...
OHH ...?
JEEZ ...
A MYSTERIOUS BEING WANDERING AROUND IS A TROUBLESOME STORY.
THAT'LL ADD MORE WORK FOR US ANGELS. WHAT A PAIN.
DINNER, MADAME NANAEL.
O-KAY.
SO...
THIS SCRAP OF PAPER IS BEING SCATTERED AROUND THE HUMAN WORLD.
IN A FEW DAYS,
THERE WILL BE A CEREMONY TO GIVE PRAISE TO THE NEW QUEEN...
HMM?
MELONA... YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS AGAIN?
WHAT?
FU-FU! ♥
YOU HAVE THAT NAUGHTY LOOK ON YOUR FACE JUST NOW.
SHE'S RIGHT... YESTERDAY, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GAVE THE SON OF THAT WEAPONS' CRAFTSMAN NEWS ABOUT HIS MISSING FATHER...
THAT WAS JUST AN ACT OF KINDNESS!
Boo!!

LET'S GO! TRIO!
THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE NOW ON A JOURNEY TO RESTORE THE KINGDOM OF AMARA!!
WHAT-EVER!! LET'S GO!!
I FOUND A NEW PLACE FOR US TO PLAY!
NO ONE SAID ANY-THING LIKE THAT...
I FEEL FOR YOU, AIRI.
MELONA'S FICKLENESS IS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN ...
BESIDES, IT'S HIS CHOICE TO BELIEVE ME OR NOT!
クス
I'LL CREATE IT WITH MY HANDS?
SOMETHING FUN...
I PREFER HER OLDER SISTER THOUGH
QUEEN LEINA IS NICE.
ガヤ
ガヤ
ガヤ
PORTRAITS OVER HERE!
LIMITED EDITION!
FIGURES OF THE NEW QUEEN, QUEEN LEINA!
パーン
パーン...

どーん!!
HUH? ELINA?
AHAHA... YOU FOUND ME?
DON'T LAUGH!!
ビックーン!!
SIS!!
BACK ROADS
さが
さが
WHAT!?
SOR-RY!!
THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS I WANT TO DO!!
ABOUT THAT... WAS I ANY GOOD AT AVOIDING THE ISSUE?
YOU WEREN'T AT YOUR OWN CORONATION. SO WHEN I WENT TO LOOK FOR YOU...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, SIS!!
I'M DES-PERATE!
NO WAY... IF THAT'S THE CASE, ELINA IS GOING WITH YOU...
ELINA...I NEED TO GO A-LONE.
I REFUSE.
キリッ

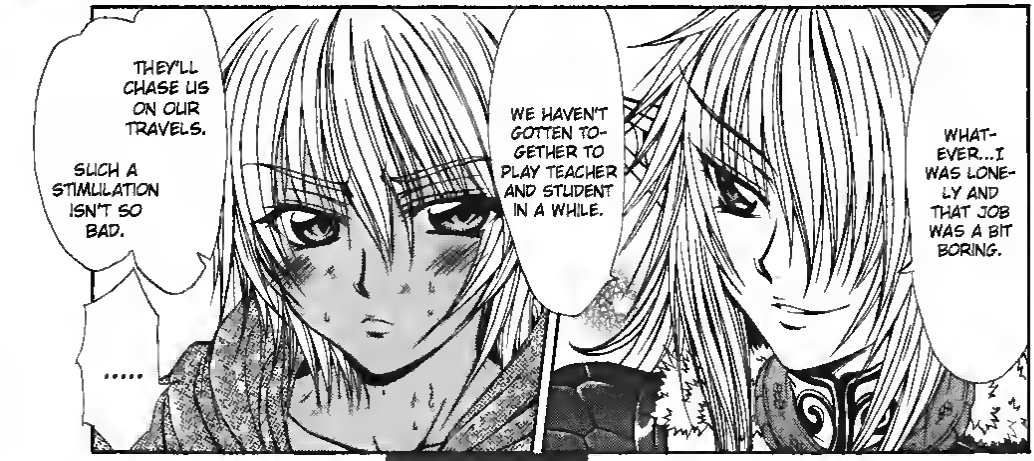
HMPH...
I SAID IT A BIT TOO DIRECTLY
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. YOU HATE ELINA?
YOU'RE MEAN, SIS...
OHH...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I PROMISE YOU, I'LL DEFINITELY COME BACK.
I LOVE YOU, ELINA.
AHH....
THE PALM... IS A KISS OF A REQUEST...
O...OF COURSE I DO, SIS!!
YOU ALSO LOVE YOUR SISTER?
THEN, PROMISE ME THIS, ELINA.
ヒシッ
ヒシッ
シャキーン!!

UNTIL THAT TIME WHEN I COME BACK...
STAY HERE, ELINA.
I WANT YOU TO HELP OUR SISTER, CLAUDETTE.
SHE'S BETTER SUITED TO BE QUEEN THAN I AM.
THAT ROLE SUITS HER.
OH MAN ...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
MS. CLAUDETTE ROSE UP AND BECAME QUEEN...
TRULY... THAT TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT IS SOMETHING YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE.
BUT, THAT'S JUST LIKE LEINA.
ワァ...
ワァ...
ワァ...
ガヤ
ガヤ
QUEEN ☆CLAUDETTE!
QUEEN ☆CLAUDETTE!

ROGER!!
ぎゅ…
WELL, MS. SHIZUKA?
WE WON'T INFORM THE FOLKS IN HINOMOTO THAT WE'RE QUICKLY COMING HOME.
たっ
たっ
HEY,
KI?
RUU?
I'M GOING TO BE ACCOMPANYING YOU THROUGH IT ALL, LADY TOMOE?
たっ
たっ
たっ
"NO ONE TEACHES THE ANIMALS WHERE TO LAY THEIR HEAD OR WHERE TO DRINK WATER."
WAS SOMETHING THE COMMANDER ONCE SAID...?
KII! KII!!

I WANT TO DECIDE ON MY OWN PATH IN LIFE...
THAT'S RIGHT...I WANT TO BE AS STRONG AS MS. ECHIDNA AND THAT WANDERING WARRIOR, LEINA...
LET'S GET GOING!
RUU!
I'M SURE SHE'LL UNDERSTAND!!
KII!!
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING. I LOVE YOU, COMMANDER...
YOU'VE ACQUIRED THE ABILITY TO LIVE...
I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO TEACH YOU ...
HMPH
カサッ
ビヨオッ...
ザワ...
A PERFECT SCORE.
NOWA, MY STUDENT.

ECHIDNA...
I HAD TO BRUSH OFF MY JOB TO RESCUE YOU.
NOW, I'M CONSPIRING WITH A CRIMINAL... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SEEING THAT IT WOULD BE A FOOLISH PUBLIC EXECUTION FOR A TRAITOR, I FIGURED IT'D BE YOU, IRMA. AVENGING YOUR BROTHER ISN'T IN FASHION NOW?
HA...
OH BROTHER.
THEY WENT THAT WAY!


THEY'LL CHASE US ON OUR TRAVELS.
SUCH A STIMULATION ISN'T SO BAD.
.....
WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN TOGETHER TO PLAY TEACHER AND STUDENT IN A WHILE.
WHATEVER...I WAS LONELY AND THAT JOB WAS A BIT BORING.

QUEEN CLAUDETTE! QUEEN CLAUDETTE!
HMPH ...
YOU'RE CUTE WHEN YOU'RE NOT, IRMA.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED EITHER.
I'M HAPPY.
MY TEACHER HASN'T CHANGED.
SHE STILL HAS HER OWN BAD HOBBIES.

WELL...IF IT'S THAT GENERAL, SHE'LL MAKE A FINE QUEEN
BUT STILL,
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE PLOTTED THAT OUT FROM THE START...?
WAIT!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!
SHE'S NOT LIKE THAT!!
LEINA!!
DON'T FORGET WHAT HAPPENS FOUR YEARS FROM NOW.
LADY ELINA!!
TROUBLE!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, FLORELLE?

REBEL FORCES ARE ON THE MOVE ...
HMPH... SO, THEY'VE COME...
UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE QUEEN,
WE OF THE FANGED ASSASSINS ARE TO CLEAN THEM UP?
OH? LADY ELINA ...
YOU'VE BEEN FOR-GIVEN FOR YOUR SCREWUP YESTERDAY?
AHH... STRATE-GIST!!
SHUT UP...YOU BANGS GRANNY BRAT!
I SHOULD PULL ON THOSE SUSPEN-DERS!?
ELINA ...
YOU SAY TOO MUCH.

AHH...MY APOLIGIES,
YOUR HIGHNESS, QUEEN CLAUDETTE.
AND IRON STRATEGIST, LADY YMIR...
YOUR VOICE WAS TOO SOFT!
REBELS HAVE APPEARED,
ELINA.
YOU'VE BECOME QUITE THE YOUNG LADY WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, FLORELLE. YOU'RE SO TALL.
OH NO! I'M NOT AS SEXY AS YOU, STRATEGIST.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
WIPE THEM OUT...
COMPLETE THAT AND MAKE IT GLORIOUS.
OF COURSE ....
I'M GOING TO ERADICATE THEM ALL.

I WON'T SHOW THEM ANY MERCY.
EXECUTING THE MISSION ...
HEY SIS...
ELINA HAS KEPT HER END OF THE PROMISE?
ELINA, SHE WHO CONTROLS THE FANG...
AM AT YOUR WILL ...!!
LEINA.
SO, HURRY AND COME BACK...
クイーンズブレイド
Hide&Seek
～END～

大千秋楽的、ありがとう、アトガキ!!の巻。

とうとうこの時がやってまいりました!!
『クイーンズブレイド-Hide&SeeK-』
最終⑤巻!!ラストまで
お付き合いくださり、そして
手に取ってくださった皆々様!!
本当に本当にありがとう
ございましたあああ!!

てか当初③巻位までの予定(?)
だったので、作者も驚いております!!

そして最後の最後まで
たくさんの方々にお世話になりました(涙)

- ホビージャパンの横田さん、河原さん
- 角川編集担当の野口さん、浅谷さん
- 表紙・口絵・彩色してくださった前澤さん
- 全巻の装丁してくださった沼さん
- 本文スーパーアシスト：松崎さん、永島さん、原口さん、阿部さん(皆さんの技術にひたすら感謝!!)
- 修羅場フォローしてくれた家族
- 励まし&遊んでくれた友人がた!!

そしてそして
QB世界を彩り
形作る全ての
クリエイターの皆様!!

最後まで来たから言えるコト…のひとつ。
おやおや…また新たなハンタイ性の告白かい？
実はコミックス表紙における裏テーマは、全巻通して『ワキの下』でした。
…って別に今まで隠すほどのコトでもなかったのですが。
ホホホ
泥
特別、ワキフェチとかそういうコトではないのですが。ワキの下というのはフェロモンの発生する箇所で、人は無意識にでもソコからアピールを感じるのだそうで…。よって人目を惹きつけやすいとか何とか。ある種、実験的に組み込んでみました（姑息）
…効果のほどは定かではありません☆
かし女子アイドルのPVとか観ててワキの下がチラッとすると
ドキーン♥と来るのはそういうコトかぁ？と妙に納得。
キモ発言。
◎そしてフロルルの性別について。後付け設定ではなく、連載前の打ち合わせ段階から、ちゃんと『男装女子』でした。小説版QBに女装男子のフィオ君が登場するので、ウチはその逆を行こう!!という安直な理由から。
・性別が明らかになるエピソードは尺の都合で（泣）割愛となりましたが、2巻序盤のエキドナの態度で気づかれた方もチラホラと……
スバラシイ!!（笑）

ちなみに。あくまで話の潤滑剤的オリキャラのため、
・特定キャラとフラグを立てない。
・基本的に無害なマスコット的立ち位置
…は崩さないように注意しました。
名前の由来はフランス革命のサン・ジュストのフルネームから…とか、どうでも良い余談。

成長したフロレルさん。

それにしても。改めて読み返すと①～②巻辺りは自分でも少し迷走してるかも…と感じます。

この頃はまだ設定も出揃ってなかったり…
ある意味ライトなノリでごまかそうとするな。
てか純粋にエロスって難しい…。

『QBはあくまで男性向け?』という概念に囚われていて、変にあざとく考え過ぎていたのかもしれません。

ぶっちゃけてるとかでなく、むしろその逆…。エロは深い(謎)

③巻辺りからは開き直ってきたと言いますか(汗)
本来、女子同士のドロドロとも言える精神的ぶつかり合いを描くのが大好物なので、ソレをスパイスにしつつ。

レイナvsエリナ戦の打ち合わせ

この頃には編集さんもあまり止めなくなった(笑)

多少ドン引かれても、自分の作風との擦り合わせを行うことで、私の中で俄然、キャラが動き出した気がしてます。

キャラが動き出すとセリフも勝手に喋り出すので、話作りに関しては後半の方が全然楽でした。(大会が始まってからの作画は毎回死にそうでしたが。)
…まぁそれでも時々、盛大なるNGをくらったケ・ド・NE☆

(百合的に)やり過ぎです!! NK

この人たち何してるのやらいつものお揃い。

あとは。

試合に勝って勝負に負け続けてる人。

最初はアレインの庇護下にありながらも、確実に自我と独立心を育てていくノワ。

一見すると自立していて、主体性の塊のようでありながら、姉に依存せずにいられないエリナ

――という、真逆な2人の対比を少しでも表現できてたらクイイ…な、と(弱気)

そして、この⑤巻最終話で女王クローデットとツインテールなエリナさんが気になった方は、

原作の続編シリーズ『クイーンズブレイド・リベリオン』をチェックしちゃえばイイと思います!! GO!!

ヴァンス3姉妹が主軸であるため、当マンガでは描き切れなかったキャラも多いのは残念ですが。

最後だから描きたい放題。

QBワールドは原作ゲームブックをはじめフィギュア・OVA etc…と、まだまだメディアミックス展開が続いております。むしろお楽しみはこれからです(笑)

そしてその中のひとつのピースとして本作も楽しんでもらえたら、幸いでございます――。

何はともあれ、大変勉強になった2年半でありました!!

人生の峠をひとつ超えた感じ。

人の優しさに助けられた日々でもありました…。ホロリ。

そんなこんなで、ここまで読んでくれてどうもありがとう!!

またいつかどこかで、お目にかかれたらウレシイです!!

by南 2010 Summer

Kadokawa Comics A

角川コミックス・エース

クイーンズブレイド -Hide & Seek- ⑤

漫画
南崎いく

原作
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